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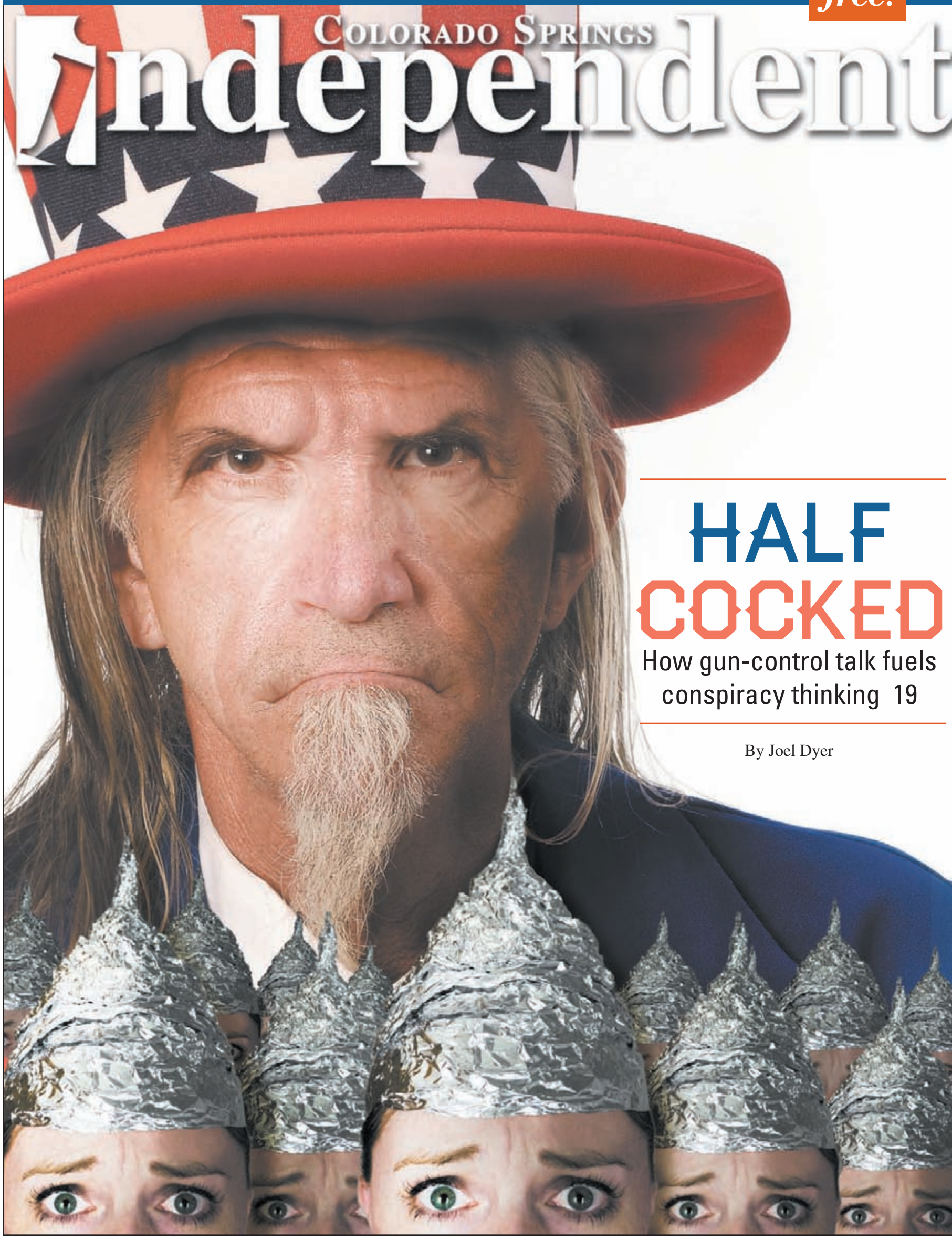

HALF COCKED

How gun-control talk fuels conspiracy thinking 19

By Joel Dyer

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We're glad John's heart beats for the *Indy*.

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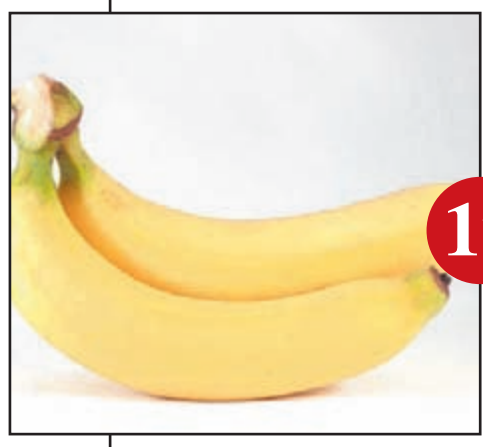

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Based on a 2011 survey, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 47.4 percent of high schoolers have had sex. More than half of the 19 million new STD infections each year are among young people aged 15 to 24, and more than 400,000 girls aged 15 to 19 gave birth in 2009.

Film:
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31

It's hard to become fully engrossed in Jack the Giant Slayer's strange world when the most interesting thing the film can find to do with its giants is make them fart, scratch their armpits and eat their own boogers. These are human-eating, 30-foot-tall beasts —and they're boring.

AudioFile:
Beginning to see the light
32

Blind Pets frontman Joshua Logan, who grew up on grunge, says his fascination with music actually dates back to early childhood. One of seven kids raised by a single mother, he was a little kid when his mom gave him a cassette of Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

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On the Cover
Design by art director Kathy Conarro.

UpComing

Yes, there's snow on the ground. Yes, your kids' boots are still hanging out in the front hallway. Yes, you're hoping the snowman you made last weekend won't melt too fast.

All that aside, it's time to start thinking summer. Summer camps, at least.

In the March 13 issue of the *Indy*, we'll get you pondering (and reserving) warm weather plans for your young'uns.

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Jennifer Ridler

Be a Winner!

This week's IndyBlast is bursting at the seams with good times. Take your pick to see *West Side Story,* the Doobie Brothers, or Opera Theatre of the Rockies' *Die Fledermaus*. We even have passes for the Wine Festival of Colorado Springs. What are you waiting for? Sign up today at csindy.com.

Get to know your 2013 City Council Candidates

Environmental City Council Candidate Forum - March 4

City Council members make critical decisions about the environmental impacts of development, transportation and traffic, parks and open space, oil and gas development, wildland, Äìurban interface, water and other key issues. What will the City do in the coming years?

As voters, we have a chance to choose between candidates with different perspectives. Come meet the Colorado Springs City Council candidates, as they answer questions about current regional environmental issues.

Please arrive early to support our sponsor venue at their cash bar!

EVENT DETAILS
Mon., March 04, 2013
Doors open 5:30PM
Forum 6-8PM
Special Guest Moderator
Craig Eliot - KOAA

EVENT LOCATION
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center
10 S. Parkside Dr.

Trails and Open Space Coalition

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Sponsors:
In partnership with Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Sierra Club, Energy Resource Center, Southern Colorado Clean Cities Coalition, Green Cities Coalition, Colorado Springs Citizens for Community Rights and the Colorado Springs Independent

Business Journal City Council Candidate Forum - March 5

Seating is limited to 270. First come first serve. Can't make it but, still want to participate? Tune in to News 5 Now to watch the Forum live and participate by sharing your questions or comments on Facebook or on Twitter using the hashtag #CosDebate.

EVENT DETAILS
Tues., March 05, 2013
Doors open 4:30PM
Forum 5-7PM
Special Guest Moderator
Rob Quirk - KOAA

EVENT LOCATION
The Mining Exchange a Wyndham Grand Hotel
8 S. Nevada Avenue

FREE
But you must RSVP at csbj.com.
Click on the "Event" link for tickets.

The Colorado Springs Business Journal | News 5 Now | magneti

Citizens Project Election Education Forum - March 12

Join us to hear from candidates in all six districts. Watch them debate and answer media questions and audience questions. This forum will be broken down by districts - come for yours or stay for them all.

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the Citizens Project Voter Guide in the March 13 issue of the *Independent.*

EVENT DETAILS
Tues., March 12, 2013
Doors open 5:15 PM
Forum 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Special Guest Moderator Joe Cole - FOX21
District 4: 5:30 PM, District 6: 6:00 PM,
Distict 2: 6:30 PM,
District 1: 7:00 PM,
District 3: 7:30 PM,
District 5: 8:00 PM

EVENT LOCATION
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center
10 S. Parkside Dr.
Free & Open to the Public

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Citizens Project | FOX21 NEWS | LWV | PPEC Pikes Peak | Colorado Springs Independent

SliceOfLife

Bryan Oller

New meaning to the phrase 'beer flight.' Last week, Bristol Brewing Co. and pals celebrated the opening of its new taproom in the Colorado Springs Airport.

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Letters

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If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

A month's not enough

Typically, I am not an advocate of black history only being recognized in February. Much of the history of blacks in America is buried in public and private libraries, to include the Library of Congress.

However, little is published in mainstream public education regarding blacks as ancient explorers, warriors, cowboys, inventors, scientists, astronauts, congressmen, educators and even business leaders. While I am not playing the race card, I will say this absence is a significant contributor to subtle narrow-mindedness, and ultimately contributes to the black child in public school wondering what my ancestors did in America, besides be slaves and pick cotton or do similar manual labor.

An argument could be made that, in its own way, the relative absence of the positive black contributions to American history contributes to the high dropout rate among black youth across America. Data suggest dropping out of high school leads to high unemployment, increased crime, and incarceration rates.

At any given economic period, the unemployment rate among black Americans is twice that of whites, as is the dropout rate. The issue facing the nation is how we alter the trend toward a growing number of under-educated people on our streets, on public assistance and in prison at a time when America can ill afford to continue to pay $32,000 to $42,000 annually, per person, to warehouse our growing number of under-educated youth.

As this month comes to an end, I encourage parents, grandparents, teachers and community leaders to research the full mosaic of black history and share with a child, a family member or a friend, and make every month a month of enlightenment.

— Willie H. Breazell
Board president, STAR Academy Charter School, Colorado Springs

About that crisis ...

As I write, we have just days to come up with a government decision that will help pull us out of our main problems: Social Security, military financing, Medicare collapse. What do we see this morning? Immigration people marching to pass laws to help illegal immigrants. We see a push for gun control that we know will not stop the crimes in the future.

The President goes to play golf instead of staying in the Oval Office and work to get the two parties to work together. We have a leader of Afghanistan tell us to leave an area because supposedly we are torturing the enemy. I don't know what we are doing but I do know the enemy does a lot worse. If they don't want us to fight our way, then let's go home and take our money with us.

The big problem is that both parties, instead of trying seriously to fix our government, are already figuring if what they do now will affect the next election. We just finished an election — how sick are these people?

— Rodney E. Hammond
Colorado Springs

Trimming the fat

We are in danger of sequestration on March 1, which means that spending cuts across the board will happen. We could go into a deep recession with the loss of thousands of jobs, and it will hurt many people.

House Republicans and Senate Democrats have offered counter-proposals in order to protect our most vital programs, but they do not include any major reductions to the hugely bloated Pentagon budget, which is more than 50 percent of our federal budget. The Pentagon has doubled its budget since 1998, meaning we can make much deeper cuts because we would still be able to fully support everything we need, including help for our veterans.

So why should we have to sacrifice some of our basic needs and our security to fund the wasteful spending of the Pentagon with programs that have been extremely costly and abject failures, such as the F-35 plane? Just think about what our country really needs, how many jobs we could create, and how these funds could increase the quality of people's lives across America and help reduce the debt.

We need to contact our members of Congress and tell them to include the necessary deeper cuts to the Pentagon budget so that we can work towards real and sensible economic recovery.

— Sharlene White
Oceanside, Calif.

Free and queasy

Last week's Freethought Views (p. 12) scared the living shit out of me. And it just floors me that so many evangelicals still use the violence of the Old Testament to instruct their children instead of the teachings of Christ.

I mean, they're Christians, right? So how about teaching the parable of the sower or the Golden Rule? But no, they start out with a story of mass murder and how disappointed God was that not everyone was slaughtered.

And what is a religious club doing in a public elementary school, anyway? Last I knew there was still separation between church and state.

— Christopher Curcio
Colorado Springs

Why I vote

Why vote at all? Major elections seem to be a media show. Local elections ... well, why do they matter? Who knows these people and who cares? And what difference does my one vote make, anyway?

These questions run through my mind each election season. And in many ways, they are fair. But I guess the answer for me starts with my own family's history.

My grandmother became a young woman in an era when there was no television, radio or Internet. In 1918, she wrote a letter expressing her longing to vote, something she wasn't able to do as a woman. And my immigrant ancestors left their home countries because they were denied freedoms and rights by their unelected leaders. As soon as any of them were able, they voted. And as far as I know, they voted in every election.

Here I am, a product of those longings, and I'm looking at local elections where I don't know as much about the candidates as I'd like. But while I might find myself thinking I'd sit this one out, I'm reminded of my ancestors and also, what's at stake locally.

Here are some of the issues that concern me: fracking, clean air, parks, public health, housing and homelessness, maintenance of streets and roads, fire and police protection, schools, public transportation ... and that's just a start.

I figure all these things will be decided in some form or fashion by our City Council members during their term. And, since these things are important to me, I should probably think seriously about what kind of compensation Councilors should be receiving, as well.

— Marsha Smith
Colorado Springs

'Trust, but verify'

I'm so glad I had my neighbor grab my *Independent* delivery this week, as the letter from Laurel Biedermann ("Testing, 1, 2, 3") was not one to miss. Bravo. We don't know how fracking is going to play out. We hope/think it will be OK, but exactly what's wrong by citing the Book of Reagan and doing the "Trust, but verify" thing?

We should agree up front to get a few years of data, then revisit the frequency of sampling to try to take some of the extra cost out of the process if

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'This is not a healthy situation for any kind of institution. It looks like amateur hour.'

— The Rev. Thomas Reese of Georgetown University, quoted by NBC News on the controversies surrounding the conclave to choose Pope Benedict XVI's successor.

LongStoryShort

Steven Levitt, the University of Chicago economist behind the *Freakonomics* empire, has studied crime and violence for years. In a recent *Freakonomics* podcast devoted to gun control, he rattled off all sorts of stats on the preponderance of guns in our society today, the ineffectiveness of gun buyback programs, and even the unintended consequences of laws that mandate therapists report dangerous patients to authorities.

In sum, he told colleague Stephen Dubner: "Anyone with any sense looks at the current political climate, thinks about the kinds of proposals that are being made, and accepts the fact that none of these proposals are going to have any real impact at all."

Which is, of course, fairly depressing. But what if the reality was actually worse than that? What if gun-control proposals themselves, their mere existence and ubiquity in the news, actually led to more violence?

Boulder Weekly editor Joel Dyer probably wouldn't be comfortable with the suggestion that he could out-Freak Steven Levitt. But his own research, which he made into a very well-received book in the '90s, suggests that our fixation with controlling guns has actually spun some of our society's more unstable elements out of control.

In Dyer's story, starting on p. 19, he calls out this "elephant in the room" and draws parallels between the tenor of a couple decades ago — the era of Ruby Ridge, Waco and Timothy McVeigh's Oklahoma City bombing — and today. Consider it food for thought, though it may be hard to swallow.

— Kirk Woundy

possible. How would you manage this if you lived next door to the drilling, and your son/daughter owned the company doing the extraction?

I very much want to know exactly where my potential Council candidates stand on this subject. I see that the *Indy* is sponsoring a forum, but sorry, I've just gotta get the response in writing. I'm willing to cut these overwhelmingly decent folks a lot of slack for the occasional verbal gaffe or misunderstanding — I know that my thinking is much more clear when I type it out! Please add a question to your upcoming candidate survey.

— Mark Martin
Colorado Springs

Drilling down

An open questionnaire to the Colorado Springs City Council regarding fracking in the Pikes Peak region:

1. Please describe the extent of your knowledge and experience related to fracking. List any course of study which may apply: engineering, geological studies, extensive work in the oil and gas industry. What course of study has brought you to your informed position on the subject?

2. How will fracking impact other forms of established regional industry, including but not limited to, tourism and construction? For instance, do you anticipate a building moratorium in the event of water supplies being dramatically compromised, or tourism being diminished because of rampant pollution?

3. What short-term and long-term effects will fracking have on the Denver Basin aquifer system, which includes the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe and Laramie-Fox Hills aquifers, all of which are beneath El Paso County? Also, please describe the extent of your knowledge of this aquifer system and how it relates to the Pikes Peak region water supply.

4. Will the Southern Delivery System provide the Pikes Peak region with enough water if fracking causes the widespread contamination of Front Range water supplies?

5. Was the SDS put into motion in anticipation of fracking?

6. In your opinion, should Front Range water supplies be sacrificed for oil and gas interests?

7. What contributions have come from the oil and gas industry in support of the SDS? Are there any expected?

8. Have any elected officials been offered gratuities and or any form of compensation for a favorable stance on fracking? Please describe.

9. In the event of property damage and health problems, do citizens of the region file suit against: a.) the oil and gas industry; b.) the city; c.) Council members; d.) all of the above?

— Wayne Hammerstadt
Colorado Springs

A Little problem

Every time I hear a grocery store advertising their "Little Clinic," I feel a letter to the editor coming on. So here it is.

Grocery stores should do a better job of doing what they do best, selling groceries. If they want to improve their customers' health, they can do it by offering them a fresher, healthier selection of food products.

I don't think they provide any needed service by offering one-stop medical care while you shop. Maybe medical offices should stock soft drinks and snack foods, bread and dairy products, and greeting cards, especially of the "Get Well" variety.

I guess if this trend continues, we'll soon see in-store dental care, somewhere between the bakery and the candy aisle, a paralegal person offering legal advice, and a seasonal accountant to complete customers' tax returns, all while they shop.

C'mon man. Grocery stores need to stick to groceries and leave health care to the medical professionals.

— Tom Dlugos, M.D.
Manitou Springs

Looking at Lamborn

A Capitalist's Rationale for Term Limits, or, "Why I vote against Representative Doug Lamborn":

I need a good reference when I leave my current employment. That awareness means I make decisions that help me maintain my value in the labor market. I focus on things like my performance, the effectiveness and respectfulness of my professional relationships, and opportunities to improve my skills and knowledge.

In contrast, Rep. Lamborn believes he has life tenure in Congress. So he can say anything, do anything (or nothing) with impunity.

Capitalists like me believe that our world is a better place when everyone worries a little bit about their résumés. That's the power of the marketplace. I urge you to remind Rep. Lamborn that he's working on a two-year contract for us, and his performance evaluation is scheduled for November 2014. Between now and then, let's compare notes regularly about how well he's doing his job, representing the Pikes Peak region.

— Di Graski
Colorado Springs

THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
THE TIME IS ALWAYS NOW: THE BOWLES SIMPSON APPROACH
BOWLES AND SIMPSON BELIEVE IN PRE-EMPTIVE SOLUTIONS!
WE MUST CUT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE NOW--
--OR ELSE WE MAY HAVE TO CUT THEM A COUPLE DECADES FROM NOW!
THEY'RE SO SENSIBLE!
IMAGINE THE WORLD WE MIGHT LIVE IN--IF MORE PEOPLE EMULATED THE B.S. APPROACH!
AS YOU GET OLDER, YOUR ODDS OF DEVELOPING PROSTATE CANCER WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY!
SINCE WE MIGHT HAVE TO OPERATE IN THIRTY YEARS--I THINK WE SHOULD DO IT NOW!
?!
I REALIZE YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG--BUT MOST VIOLENT CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY YOUNG MEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF SIXTEEN AND TWENTY-FOUR.
IF I DON'T SEND YOU TO PRISON NOW--I MIGHT HAVE TO LATER!
?!
LOOK AT THIS PLACE! IT'S A TOTAL FIRE HAZARD! WE SHOULD REALLY DO SOMETHING!
I'LL GET THE GASOLINE AND SOME MATCHES.
5
5
NEXT: B.S. FROM BEYOND THE STARS!
IF ITS PRESENT ORBIT REMAINS UNCHANGED, THE ASTEROID THAT JUST MISSED THE EARTHLINGS COULD HIT THEIR PLANET WHEN IT PASSES BY AGAIN IN SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS!
WELL IN THAT CASE--INITIATE GLOBAL BOMBARDMENT!
TOM TOMORROW©1-27-2013 ...www.thismodernworld.com...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

Clarification

An editor's note in last week's Letters section pointed out that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counted 31,672 firearm-related deaths in 2010 in the U.S. However, in the context of today's gun-violence debate, which focuses largely on murders and attempted murders, it is worth noting that 19,392 of those deaths were suicides.

Write to us

Letters@csindy.com or
235 S. Nevada Ave.,
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GetInvolved

Respect your elders

Learn more about local resources that offer care for seniors, as well as the committees that oversee senior support organization initiatives and policies. Hosted by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Regional Advisory Council.

Annual Provider Forum
Thursday, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.
PPACG Area Agency on Aging offices, 14 S. Chestnut St.
Contact: ppacg.org

Healing arts

Get creative at this gathering to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Bring your own materials or instruments (musicians welcome); the BAC will provide mics, easels, tables and some media. Also included: art demonstrations and live music.

"'Til the Sun Sets: Creativity Party to Benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society"
Saturday, March 2, 5:30 p.m.
Business of Art Center, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs,
$5 suggested donation
Contact: 685-1861, tinyurl.com/ay7ox3e

Q & A

Attend this forum in which candidates will answer questions about fracking, development projects, open spaces and more. Hosted by the Trails and Open Space Coalition, the Catamount Institute and other regional environmental organizations.

Environmental City Council Candidate Forum
Monday, March 4, 6 p.m.
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive
Contact: tinyurl.com/bkogn2r

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 36.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

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CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Thinking of us while in D.C.

Foreign visitors to Washington have a hard time understanding our nation's capital. "They always ask me the same thing," says my cousin **Caroline**. "They want to know where the city is."

Real cities have high-rise buildings, and important cities have soaring skyscrapers designed by famous architects — look at New York, Beijing, Shanghai or Seoul. Surely there's more to D.C. than scores of dismal, low-rise, neo-classical buildings fronted by bronze equestrian statues!

That's one of Washington's many charms. Thousands of power players live there, yet it seems curiously provincial, like Natchez or Memphis ... or Colorado Springs. Also like our city, Washington can seem transient. Elected officials and staffs arrive, fret their hours upon the stage and depart, to be heard from no more. New administrations come and leave, just as Intel came to Colorado Springs in the 1990s, hired thousands and abruptly left.

Yet both cities have strong, permanent, almost-invisible governing classes. In Colorado Springs, a few dozen serve as de facto city directors, exerting leadership through philanthropy, wisdom, institutional power and sheer force of personality. If you don't know them, stick around — you'll figure it out.

Both cities have strong, almost-invisible governing classes.

In Washington, power is so diffused as to be invisible. Congress may have it, but members are too quarrelsome to exercise it. President **Barack Obama** has immense power, but not enough to tame recalcitrant Republicans.

Manufactured crises have the effect of transferring power to the much-maligned bureaucracy, D.C.'s permanent governing class. Not a bad idea.

Between 1950 and 1990, American foreign policy was executed, shaped and often created by the quiet, professional diplomatic corps. They failed to dissuade **Lyndon Johnson** from leading the country into a meaningless war, but they successfully managed many crises and prevented hundreds more.

I was in Washington last weekend for the funeral of one of those quiet Americans, Caroline's father, **Christopher Van Hollen**. Born in 1922, Van Hollen went to work for then-Secretary of State Dean Acheson in 1951, devoting most of his career to the Near East and South Asia. As deputy assistant secretary of state in 1971, he butted heads with **Henry Kissinger** over the Bangladesh crisis, and later served as ambassador to Sri Lanka.

The wooden benches of the Friends Meeting House were packed with family, friends and colleagues, including many aging survivors of a golden age of diplomacy. A post-funeral reception at the Cosmos Club gave this consummate outsider a glimpse of the once (and hopefully future) D.C. establishment.

The Cosmos Club, says its website, "is a private social club, incorporated in Washington, D.C. in 1878 by men distinguished in science, literature and the arts. ... Among its members, over the years, have been three Presidents, two Vice Presidents, a dozen Supreme Court justices, 32 Nobel Prize winners, 56 Pulitzer Prize winners and 45 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom."

Want to join? To be considered for membership in the Cosmos Club, an individual must be a person of "distinction, character and sociability" who has done meritorious original work in science, literature, or the arts; is well known in another field, or is recognized as distinguished in a learned profession or in public service.

Getting elected to Congress doesn't count. *You have to do something.*

The club occupies a grand Beaux-Arts mansion on Massachusetts Avenue and maintains a strict dress code. If ever there were a place where power, wisdom and intelligence could be deployed for the country's benefit, it would be within those walls.

Are we represented at that table? Would any right-wing ideologue feel comfortable in the august precincts of the Cosmos Club? Conversely, would traditional conservative Republicans such as **Bill Hybl** or **Kathy Loo** be uncomfortable there?

The bipartisan establishment of the latter 20th century underpinned American greatness. We've helped shatter that consensus by electing as our representative in Congress a man who despises compromise.

Fellow Republicans: In 2014, let's replace our D.C. incumbent with a person of "distinction, character, and sociability." I know one Democrat who would work with him or her: U.S. Rep. **Christopher Van Hollen Jr.,** D-Md.

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Another round

Colorado leads the national discussion on gun control, with stricter state provisions on gun ownership recently passing the House. Next up, the Senate.

David Welker from ***Fort Carson*** is an ***Army infantryman***

Knowing what you know about Colorado gun laws, what elements would you keep? I know I don't reflect most of what my buddies in the infantry feel about gun control, and, you know, limitations and restrictions, but my personal belief is the more restrictions the better. More guns in more people's hands usually just means more potential problems, not necessarily more protection.

What thoughts do you have about the recent gun control bills passed in the Colorado House? ... it's encouraging to know that there is at least a response from the state to do something about gun control because in the recent months it's been more apparent than ever that there is a problem in our country.

How do you feel about the no-guns-on-college-campuses provision? Well, for someone who is getting out of the Army and is very used to being around guns, and going back to school, I'm more comfortable with the idea of going to a college campus that doesn't have guns. Even though I'm used to it, I would just be more comfortable with less guns in a school environment.

Nicole Freyschlag from ***Colorado Springs*** is a ***teacher***

Knowing what you know about Colorado gun laws, what elements would you keep or change? I would agree with a lot of other people nowadays saying that there should be a whole lot more to purchase. Like the whole background-check thing. I think the option to open-carry or concealed-carry is fine; I would keep that. But on college campuses? I would probably change that.

Do you think restrictions on gun sales and magazine capacity will impact future tragedies? I don't think so. I mean, I obviously support trying to eliminate those, but I think that if people are going to want to do something like that, they are going to figure out how.

Joe Bruno from downtown is a ***musician/activist***

Knowing what you know about Colorado gun laws, what elements would you keep or completely change? I don't know, not restrict it too much. 'Cause I feel the more restriction, the more implementation you do — yeah, it's a lot more work for responsible gun owners, but in the end you know ... the more you intervene with things like that, the easier you're going to make it for a black market to exist.

What thoughts do you have about gun bills passed in the House? I think that we need to focus more ... on mental health, and focus more on changing, I don't know, getting into those rough neighborhoods where those kind of things are going on and contributing more to neighborhood outreach programs.

*— **Miguel Bustamante***

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NationalView

By Wes Craven

Retirement: Scarier than Freddy Krueger

I'm used to horror. I'm the father of Freddy Krueger, for Pete's sake. But the horror of retirement? I didn't see that one coming at all.

I haven't actually retired, but my wife, Iya, would just as soon I did.

In the past three years we made two brutally difficult films back-to-back, with her producing and me directing, and we're both thoroughly wrung out. So retirement is tempting — in a way. Plus, our new house is nearing completion on Martha's Vineyard, a place that we knew, even if we didn't say it outright, we could make our final stand.

My leg looked like a shot in one of my movies.

But that might be years from now. Or ... maybe sooner. I am 73, an age you see in obituaries a lot. Maybe it's just conductors who live into their 90s.

So Iya and I decided to take the summer off, move in to our cool new digs and forget the insanity of the film business. The plan was to relax, really relax, maybe for the first time in more than 40 years of filmmaking.

Iya seemed happier as soon as we resolved to do it, and "happy wife, happy life" is a mantra it seems unwise to ignore. Trial retirement made sense all around.

We started hanging out with everyone we knew but had never had time to hang out with before — fun, interesting people, almost none of whom had seen a single movie I'd ever made. I built a woodworking shop in the basement. It was fun. Iya and I went for walks, read books, watched movies — we even had our kids and grandkids out for a weeklong visit in August. It was wonderful. And we had the Vespa Iya had given me for my 70th birthday shipped out from California. Ah, tooling around the island on a Vespa. Perfection!

Two-wheeled trouble

I used to ride a motorcycle in the '60s, so I was no stranger to two-wheeled transportation. But a scooter is a different animal. The Vespa manual strongly advised against off-road driving, but half the roads in the Vineyard are dirt. Soft sand, gravel, rocks — the kind of stuff the manual advises riders to avoid.

I was very cautious the day we took friends up to see the new house. Ten miles an hour on the Vespa, and doing just fine on the dirt road leading to our house. But suddenly the front wheel hit soft sand. The back end skidded off the road, throwing me sideways. Hanging on, I inadvertently gave it the gas. (Funny place for an accelerator — on the handlebars.) I took a quick glimpse at the road's steeply rising shoulder and the boulder at its top. The next thing I remember was finding my face planted on the far side of the road. I was wearing a helmet and all that, so by the time Iya and our friends ran up, I was up and righting the scooter, feeling nothing more than embarrassment.

"I'm fine," I muttered. "No you're not!" Iya cried, pointing to the blood gushing from my cuff like rain from a downspout. I lifted my pant leg. And we all gasped: There was a gash the size of a coat pocket and something gray and gory sticking out from inside my leg. It looked like a shot in one of my movies.

It turns out that, somewhere in those missing seconds, the bike put its kickstand through my calf, splitting the muscle sheath. That's what was poking out. There was a good surgeon at the hospital, and after a rather intense session of stitching, he had me on my feet again. Or at least on crutches.

I asked him how many stitches, and he said he'd stopped counting after an hour.

'Hell in a handbasket'

Well, talk about tipping points. My retirement tipped me right over the cliff. And the left leg with all the stitches wasn't much good holding me up, which put a lot of strain on my right knee, which was kind of in bad shape on its own. I'd been ignoring getting a torn meniscus fixed for years because, well, there was work to be had and I love to direct.

But since we were now retired, sort of, it seemed wise to have the knee checked out. Off to New York to the Hospital for Special Surgery. HSS is a way cool place with some of the best doctors in the world for knee work, so what better place to have a meniscus trimmed? Except they took one look at my knee and said that though indeed I did have a "shredded" meniscus (their term), its repair wouldn't mean anything because the knee itself had gone to hell in a handbasket (my term). So, what to do? TKR, baby.

Total knee replacement. Check it out on YouTube. Interestingly, it's one subsection of drawing and quartering that has survived into the modern age. Before I knew it, I was walking around (on a walker) with a titanium and plastic knee, and another huge scar.

Now retirement meant being unable to walk better than Quasimodo, and feeling as if I'd been jumped by the Oakland Raiders twice, once for good measure.

I settled down to watching movies, except the television was on the lower level of the house and one day I was carrying things in both hands going down the stairs when I slipped. Crash, right on my butt, then down to the bottom of the stairs like a crash test dummy. Back to HSS. Cracked pelvis. No use operating, just take it even easier. Unless you want hip replacement? No, thank you!

Now, 13 months later, I'm back on my own feet and ready to stop relaxing. It's too dangerous.

"Trial retirement" had a nice ring to it, but it ended up feeling as if the Liberty Bell hit me in the head.

Give me the insanity of impossible schedules, screaming studio heads, script pages never showing up until the morning we're to shoot them — anything but the horrors of retirement. These are scarier than any horror movie I can dream up.

***Wes Craven is a screenwriter, actor, film producer and director of many films, including* A Nightmare on Elm Street. *This piece originally ran in the* New York Times.**

LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Disdain for low-paid workers

When President Obama called for raising America's wage floor to nine bucks an hour, GOP House leader John Boehner attacked it like a gator on a poodle.

Incredibly, he claimed that raising the wages of our country's most poorly paid workers would hurt — guess who? — America's most poorly paid workers! This disingenuous pitting of poor people against themselves is derived from a corporate-manufactured myth that hiking the minimum forces small business owners to fire employees or even go bankrupt.

"When you raise the price of employment," he grumbled, "guess what happens? You get less of it."

Well guess again, John. That "job killer" fable has been debunked again and again by real-world experience.

The pay floor has constantly been elevated by Congress, states and cities, causing little-to-zero negative impacts on job numbers, but very positive results for employee morale, productivity and turnover.

It's dehumanized contempt for the working class.

It also generates a spending boost for local economies (especially for — guess who? — small businesses).

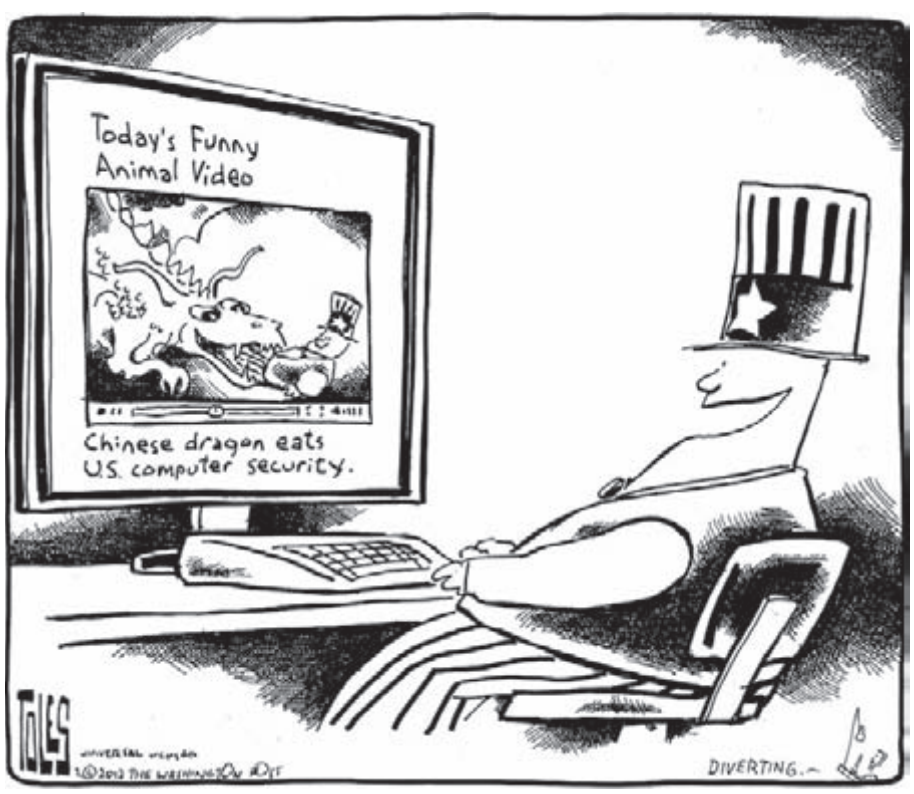
Obviously, the major impact of the raise is to lift the incomes of about 18 million hard-working people in low-wage jobs, allowing them to make a down payment on a used car or enroll in a couple of community college classes. Plus, it gives at least a token nod to the essential need of bridging America's dangerously widening chasm of economic inequality.

The real shame in the Republican leader's attack is not its flagrant dishonesty, but the raw disdain that it flings at low-wage workers — 60 percent of whom are women. The Boehners, Romneys, Koch brothers and Wall Street billionaires see such people only in terms of their price tags, not in their value.

That dehumanized contempt for the working class not only stains those who look down on the non-rich, but it's also holding back public policies to help America reach its full economic potential.

And it is social dynamite.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of **Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow***, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.*



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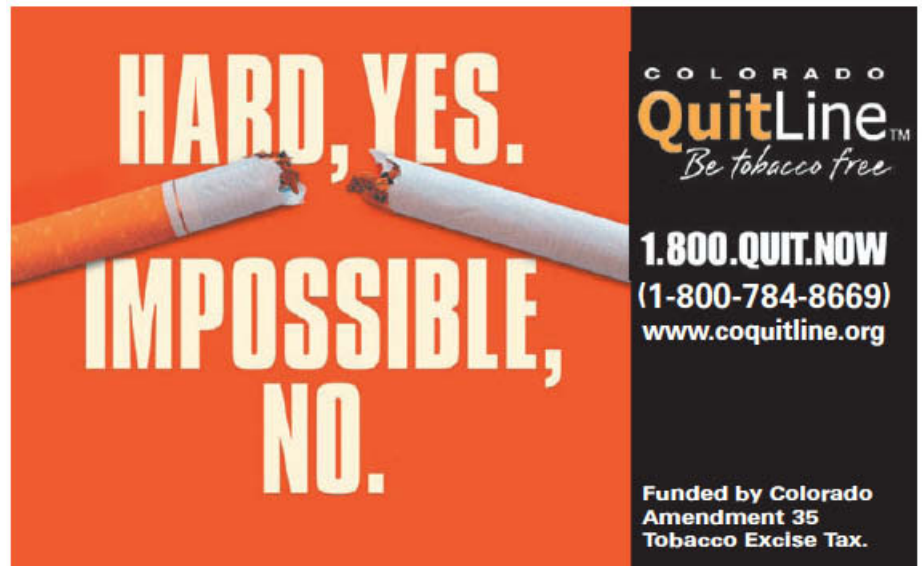

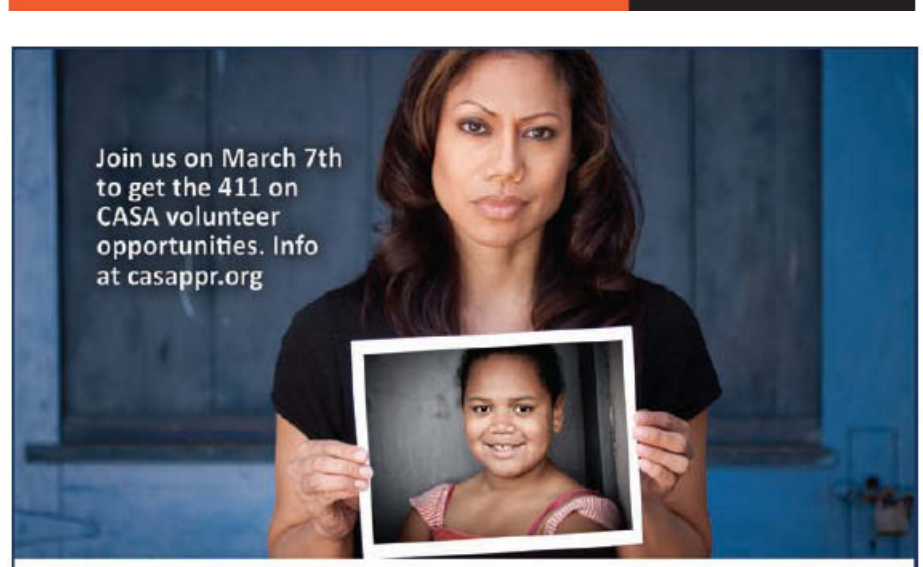
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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

How to grade city candidates

We've been making our way through a grueling ritual in recent weeks, a process that's as draining — and fascinating — as anything we do.

That would be researching, interviewing and evaluating the candidates for our biennial city election, which starts in about two weeks with mailing of ballots and lasts until April 2.

We have 24 candidates in the newly redrawn six Council districts, many of whom are seeking office for the first time or never have been on a municipal ballot. Others are incumbents or have served on school boards, in the state Legislature or on the Board of County Commissioners. But that doesn't necessarily mean they have an advantage.

On the whole, the candidates — accomplished in various fields and passionate about city issues — are making it hard to nail down obvious endorsements. We're still working on those for our March 13 issue, timed to coincide with ballots arriving in mailboxes.

We know that many of you like to wait as long as possible before filling out your ballots (and that a lot of you still prefer voting at the polls on election day, which is not an option this time around). But we can't ignore that thousands of locals will vote immediately, in part because each ballot has only a district race and two issues.

Public forums could help decide many outcomes.

With more and more residents paying closer attention, and with candidates having only limited funds to promote themselves, a handful of public forums in the next few weeks could help decide many outcomes. So it makes sense to identify a few issues — and one in particular — that could show the differences among various candidates. We're also watching to see how responses in public compare with what candidates said or wrote to us.

Regardless, here are several of the issues we see as being at the fore:

• **City attorney**. Should the Council have its own legal representation, with no ties to a city attorney who answers directly to the mayor? The answers we've been hearing are all over the map.

• **Martin Drake Power Plant**. Considerations for dealing with the future of the coal-fired downtown plant, and how long that future should be, separates smarter candidates.

• **Public comment in Council meetings**. Should it be limited or left as open as possible? You might be surprised.

• **Stormwater**. This one almost overshadows the election. As most candidates understand, Colorado Springs is not in a good position. We've closed our Stormwater Enterprise and haven't replaced the funding. Meanwhile, problems have worsened and infrastructure needs have skyrocketed.

In 2009, the cost of essential stormwater projects was pegged as somewhere north of $300 million. Now we hear $900 million or more, a staggering amount. Those projects aren't sexy, and they aren't something we can throw money at and see instant benefits, such as with the roads and major intersections improved by the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority.

We aren't addressing problems that are obvious every day when we talk about stormwater drainage and our capacity for handling major floods. But the threat of a dangerous event has been exacerbated by the aftermath of the Waldo Canyon Fire. Those who've lived here a while remember the spring of 1999, when torrential rains in the area and up Ute Pass created major flooding in Manitou Springs and further downstream. Or 1997, when huge snowstorms in April and October pushed us to our limits. Or the massive rain and hailstorms, especially in the summer of 2011. Anything at that level could be catastrophic now.

We have some leaders talking about a regional solution, and others saying the city shouldn't have to pay for county needs. Either way, we can't say we want growth and economic development without solving infrastructure problems.

Should the answer be a stormwater version of PPRTA? Should it be a combined effort with the county? Some Council candidates clearly stand out in defining and approaching that question.

The need to identify those candidates is why we have forums, campaigns and, yes, endorsements. We're all simply trying to find the best candidates.

And at this point, the clock is ticking.

— routon@csindy.com

News

Greasing the wheels

Oil and gas ordinance moves closer to a final vote

By Chet Hardin

With just weeks before the April 2 election, Colorado Springs City Council is feeling the pressure to act on the issue of oil and gas drilling in the city.

"We really are running out of time," says Councilor Jan Martin. "We owe it to the public and the oil companies."

Kin Scott

Local activists continue to speak out.

But it appears that one sector of the public — those who've been calling for a formal public hearing on the issue — will not get what they feel is owed to them.

"We've had six months' worth of weekly meetings," said Councilor Angela Dougan at Monday's informal meeting. "It think that we've heard from both sides."

Sitting Councilors picked March 12 for a second reading of the ordinance, which had been shelved two months ago due to a number of outstanding questions — some of which are still outstanding.

In his presentation Monday, Local Government Designee Kyle Campbell, the city's liaison with the state and the oil and gas industry, was able to handle a few issues.

• **Disposal of fracking fluids:** Campbell told Council there are no existing injection wells (where used fracking fluids can go) locally, because none of the wells have yet gone into the production phase. When they do, the issue of disposal would be one of the first issues tackled in the permitting process, he added.

• **Oversight of the LGD's office:** Campbell explained that while Council has the responsibility to set the policy he follows as LGD, the authority to oversee his day-to-day activities resides with the mayor.

• **Monitoring air conditions:** Campbell explained that the state is still working on finalizing its own regulations regarding that matter. He didn't address possible local controls.

• **Hiring a local inspector:** With no companies actually drilling yet, Campbell said it was still too early to consider.

• **Insurance:** Campbell said companies are required to carry $1 million general liability insurance, which would cover bodily harm or property damage, though it was unclear to him if this extended to the damage of others' property or just that of the company holding the policy. He also stated that the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission maintains an Environmental Response Fund, $4 million used to cover environmental damage and the reclamation of property, or to plug abandoned wells. According to Campbell, this fund has only been used six times over six years, covering costs ranging from $17,000 to $265,000.

It is when the presentation turned to issues of the mineral rights of public parks and the potential financial impact from drilling that Campbell's answers were more complicated, if not unsatisfying.

On mineral rights, he said Trails, Open Space & Parks has hired a third-party consultant, at $12,800, "to better understand the mineral rights ownership underneath some of the larger properties." The mineral rights of Corral Bluffs, the extension of Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp Creek Regional Park are currently being investigated, but no findings are ready to be released.

Meanwhile, the economic impact information he could provide was limited, since there's not yet been drilling in the county to reference. He was able to say that an average active well employs 100 people, and that according to his state-provided numbers, there were 2,096 people in the county employed by the industry as of 2010, with average wages between $73,000 and $109,000.

Martin and others grumbled about the lack of complete information. But that in the end they chose to move forward anyway, frustrated activist Eric Verlo.

"It's incredible that they raise these great issues, and they got really no answers," Verlo says. "They got nothing. And so how can they then segue to say, 'Well, we're ready to make a decision'?"

— chet@csindy.com

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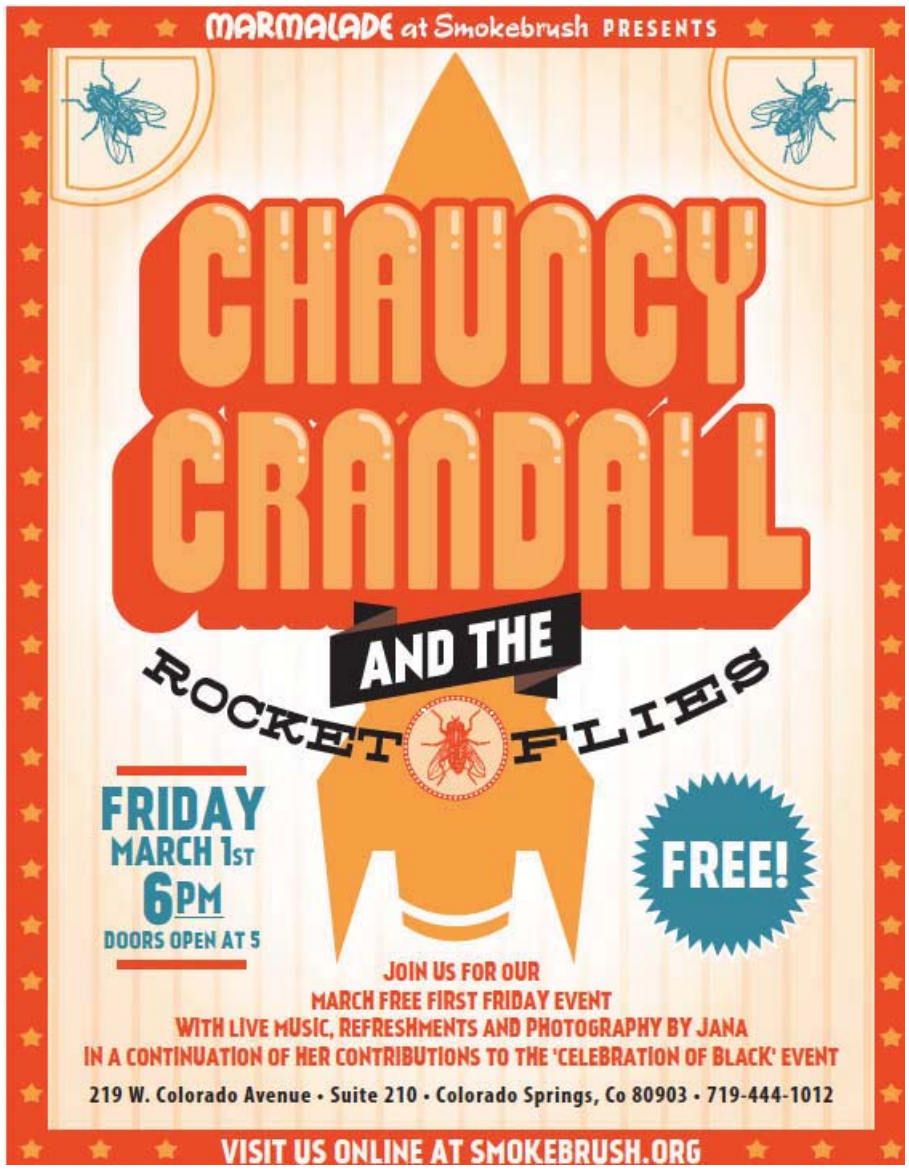
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News

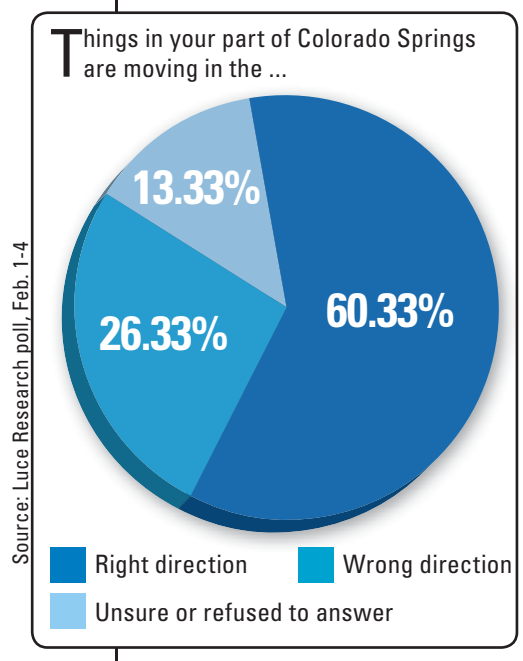
Stamp of approval

Mayor Bach viewed favorably by most residents

By Pam Zubeck

At the close of the west-side town hall meeting Feb. 19, Mayor Steve Bach asked, "Would you like to do this again sometime?"

Applause and cheers erupted from a standing-room-only crowd at the Old Colorado City History Center, a reaction similar to others Bach has received at town halls and public appearances.



Colorado Springs' first "strong mayor" captured 57 percent of the vote in the May 2011 mayoral runoff, and has built an even greater following since, according to a recent Luce Research poll commissioned by the *Independent*. About 10 percent greater, judging from 300 likely voters surveyed from Feb. 1 through 4.

The poll showed 67.3 percent of respondents with a favorable impression of Bach, versus 22.3 percent with an unfavorable impression. Nine percent were unsure, and 1.3 percent hadn't heard of him or refused to answer the question.

Meanwhile, City Council got a weak endorsement, with only 44.3 percent having a favorable impression. Also, the April 2 ballot measure to raise Council pay from $6,250 to $48,000 was slammed by up to 74 percent of those polled, depending on how the question was asked.

Among other results from likely voters, about three-quarters of whom were 55-plus (see "Mature themes," News, Feb. 13):

• U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn, who won his fourth term in November, earned a favorable rating from 52 percent of respondents, while 36 percent expressed disfavor.

• Allowing hydraulic fracturing by oil and gas drillers within city limits was opposed by 51 percent, with 45 percent supporting it; 4 percent were unsure.

• A majority — 60.3 percent — said things in their part of Colorado Springs are moving in the right direction; 26.3 percent said they're moving in the wrong direction, while 13 percent weren't sure or didn't know; .3 percent refused to answer.

The differences in city leaders' ratings didn't surprise Richard Skorman, the former Councilor who ran against Bach two years ago and has since headed a Parks Solutions Team for the mayor. "After the Waldo Canyon Fire, there were a lot of positive comments in my world," Skorman says of Bach. "People thought he was doing a good job."

In addition, Skorman notes, Bach helped resolve high-profile issues such as parks watering and reseeding, and reversed other measures Council took when revenue plunged amid the recession.

Council's low approval rating, Skorman says, is due to infighting marked by split votes.

Neighborhood activist and longtime volunteer Jan Doran echoes Skorman on that point. And she thinks the regard for Bach, with whom she's tangled as a member of the Regional Stormwater Task Force, stems mostly from his pledge to not increase taxes or propose new ones.

"We have that fairly large part of our population that think all taxes are bad," she says, "and when they see someone who wants to prevent more taxation, they think that's good and don't evaluate the whole story."

Asked for his take, Josh Dunn, associate professor of political science at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, points out that a single executive tends to have a built-in advantage over a legislative body. "It's easier for the mayor to not project confusion and uncertainty," he says. "You see it from the presidency and Congress on down."

But, he notes, "there's a lot of residual distrust of Council," citing the controversial 2009 deal to retain the U.S. Olympic Committee's headquarters and the 2007 action to impose a stormwater management fee on property owners. Opposition to a pay raise for Councilors, he says, likely is tied to that distrust.

— zubeck@csindy.com

Putting it off

Major city business starts to elude the lame-duck Council

By J. Adrian Stanley

As of late, Mayor Steve Bach has had his eyes on the future. Specifically, a future with a different City Council.

As the April city election draws near, Bach has indicated he views the current legislative branch of the city as a lame duck. And more and more, meaty issues have disappeared from Council's plate.

Bradley Flora

With a new lineup soon to take the dais, Council's hearing that things can wait.

Though Council has sole power over deciding what measures make a city ballot, a few measures that were expected to limit mayoral authority have been squelched before Council has had a chance to consider them. After the mayor publicly announced in January that he opposed changes to the City Charter, citizen-driven proposals that would have altered it disappeared. Around the same time, Council asked City Attorney Chris Melcher to deliver ballot language for a measure that would have asked voters to change Utilities governance — a move that many saw as intended to prevent mayoral interference in the enterprise — but Melcher delivered ballot language that didn't meet their expectations, and the idea was dropped.

Now, Council also finds itself in a wait-and-see position related to two issues that have dominated much of their last few months: stormwater management and the city's attempt at instituting a panhandling ban.

Stormwater stalemate

On Feb. 19, El Paso County Commissioners fussed over the wording of a resolution that, for them at least, was lacking in controversy.

After resolving small snags — like whether the term "flood control" was less politically problematic than "stormwater" — the commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to partner with Colorado Springs and other communities to solve issues related to the region's huge backlog of stormwater-infrastructure projects.

No one there mentioned Bach. But maybe someone should have.

Here's why: For the regional solution to work, City Council needs to pass the same resolution as the county. Council was expected to consider doing so Tuesday, after the *Independent*'s deadline, but at Monday's informal Council meeting, passage sounded doubtful.

Various Councilors said the resolution should be delayed, including Councilor Merv Bennett, who thought Council and the mayor should plan a work session ahead of any decisions.

"I'm afraid [the resolution is] going to set in process a train moving down the track that will be hard to stop," he said.

The resolution, though not legally binding, is a promise to join a regional group that will identify possible funding — including taxes — for stormwater projects. The mayor, however, has said he wants Colorado Springs Utilities to foot the bill for nearly $687 million in city stormwater projects, and gave a presentation to Council Tuesday outlining several reasons to delay.

In a document prepared for Tuesday's media briefing, he states, "It is appropriate for the current Council to table the County's proposed 'Joint Resolution' to respect the next Council's right to participate in storm water decision making, and to give us a few months to determine the true scope of the problem and the best way for our City to manage and fund our storm water improvements."

Panhandling delays

Council has also been expecting to decide whether to pursue a challenged downtown panhandling ban in court, after a district judge prevented it from taking effect in December on grounds that it was likely unconstitutional.

But on Feb. 19, the same day commissioners were wrestling with the stormwater resolution, Melcher effectively put off the time that the city must make that decision. His unopposed motion moved a court meeting from March 18 to the week of May 20, a month after the new Council will be seated.

In his motion, Melcher stated, "Defendant's decision-makers include the Colorado Springs City Council, which meets only bi-monthly, and the Mayor of Colorado Springs. Because of their schedules and the year-end holidays, opportunities to consider and discuss options since the Court's December 18, 2012 ruling have been limited."

But Council President Pro Tem Jan Martin says that's disingenuous, and that Melcher hasn't followed through with a Council request to put an item on the agenda.

Melcher tells a different story.

"The legal proceedings in the City 'no solicitation zone' had a required status conference on February 26, 2013, unless the parties requested more time to consider future decisions in this matter," he writes in an e-mail to the *Indy*. "The City Attorney discussed the ordinance and the court proceeding with Council in Closed Legal [session] on February 11, 2013, at which time the guidance from Council was for the City Attorney to take additional time and present a final recommendation on the matter in early March. In order to accommodate Council's guidance, the Office filed an unopposed motion for a 60 day continuance of the proceedings, which was granted by the court."

Martin says that she doesn't recall asking for any such delay, and other Councilors couldn't be reached on the matter. (Closed meetings are not public record.) But whatever happened behind closed doors, the effect of change of date will be leaving the next Council to ultimately decide the fate of an ordinance it didn't pass. And, to Martin, that's upsetting.

"The current Council," she says, "has been in place for two years and in many cases has lots of experience with these issues, such as the panhandling [ordinance] since we were the ones who put it in place in the first place. And stormwater — we've been working on that for the two years everybody's been in office. ... Who better to make those decisions than the Council that is most familiar with those issues?"

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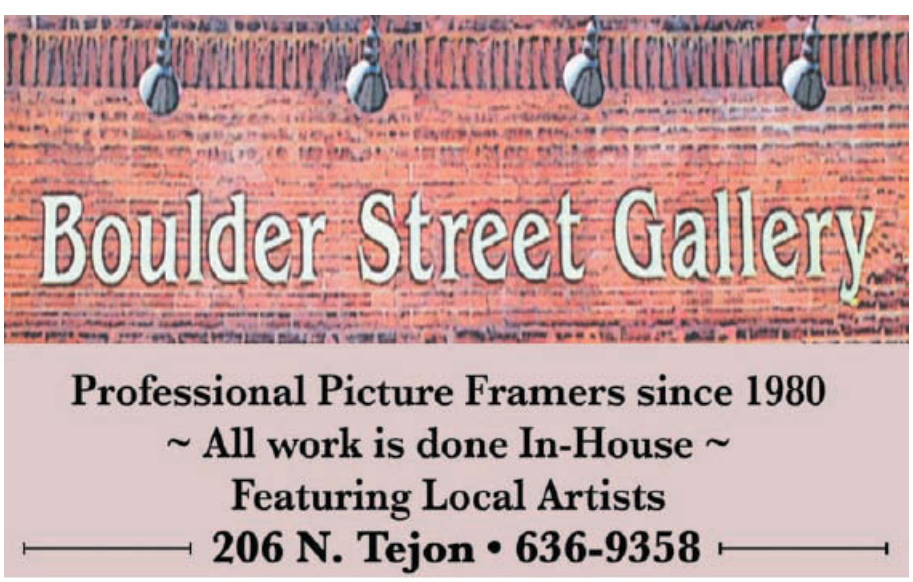
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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Carrier gets 70 years

Former Colorado Springs Police Officer Josh Carrier was sentenced last week to 70 years to life in prison for dozens of charges stemming from his time volunteering at Mann Middle School in the 2010-11 school year, local news outlets reported.

Carrier, 31, was accused of conducting "medical checks" on kids in the wrestling program, in which he coached and did other volunteer work. He was convicted on sex abuse charges involving 18 kids, the *Gazette* reported. The sentence ended a criminal case that saw two trials (the first involved many charges on which the jury couldn't agree), plus settlements by the city and School District 11 totaling more than $10 million with victims' families, according to the *Gazette*. — ***PZ***

No fireworks at court

Ed Kiley's long, explosive saga has nearly ended. It all began when Kiley decided to manufacture some homemade fireworks in preparation for New Year's Eve in December 2011. A loud bang caused alarm in his Hillside neighborhood, and soon Kiley's house was crawling with cops ("Going out with a bang," News, Aug. 15). A two-day search ensued in which police turned up plenty of explosives, an antique gun and marijuana plants.

Kiley, a popular eccentric in his neighborhood, helped with the search and explained to officers that he was a lifelong fan of pyrotechnics who enjoyed manufacturing his own products. Police suspected a more sinister motive.

Eventually, Kiley was charged with 10 counts of possession of explosives/incendiary device; two counts of possession of a weapon by a previous offender; one count of possession of marijuana, more than 12 ounces; and one count of cultivation of marijuana plants, six plants or less. He could have faced 60-plus years.

Instead, Kiley says, when he showed up for court in January, his lawyer had a surprise: "'He said, 'Good news ... they dropped the gun and weapons charges.'"

Kiley pled guilty to a single charge of possession of explosives/incendiary device, which carries a sentence of two to six years. Currently free on bail, he will be sentenced Monday, March 4. — ***JAS***

Forums aplenty

'Tis the season for candidate forums, as 24 hopefuls campaign for six district Colorado Springs City Council seats. Here's a lineup of forums we were aware of at deadline:

Monday, 6 to 8 p.m., Stargazers Theater, 10 S. Parkside Drive, environmental forum. Sponsored by several green groups, including the Trails and Open Space Coalition and Catamount Institute, and the *Independent*.

Tuesday, 5 to 7 p.m., The Mining Exchange, a Wyndham Grand Hotel, 8 S. Nevada Ave. Sponsored by *Colorado Springs Business Journal*, News 5, Magneti.

Thursday, March 7 (Districts 1 and 3 only), 6 to 9 p.m., Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade Ave. Sponsored by the Council of Neighbors and Organizations and other neighborhood groups.

Tuesday, March 12, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Stargazers Theater. Sponsored by Citizens Project, ONE Colorado, Colorado Common Cause and other groups.

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m., VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Sponsored by the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition. — ***PZ***

Honor for Mining Exchange

The Mining Exchange Hotel keeps racking up the accolades. Named a Wyndham Grand Hotel — the chain's snazziest classification — before it opened, it was recently given a Four Diamond rating by AAA.

The organization's second-highest rating puts the new hotel in distinguished company. Of nearly 31,000 properties reviewed by AAA, only 5 percent have been given a Four Diamond rating — including the Springs' Antlers Hilton and Manitou Springs' Cliff House at Pikes Peak. The Broadmoor is the city's only hotel to have a Five Diamond rating.

"Gettin' four diamonds when we're missing a couple key things that we have going in was really fine," hotel owner Perry Sanders tells the *Indy*. He's referencing an under-construction spa to debut in mid-summer; the Gold Room in the building next door; and the Mining Exchange Club, "like the House of Blues." — ***JAS***

Water pressure from Pueblo

Pueblo County Commissioner and former state Rep. Sal Pace wants Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach to act more definitively on stormwater. According to the *Pueblo Chieftain*, Pace wrote a Valentine's Day letter to Bach expressing concerns.

The Springs has about $687 million in backlogged stormwater projects, according to one task force. And with the Waldo Canyon burn scar baring hillsides, flood risk is expected to be very high in the coming years. Still, Bach has been resistant to working with El Paso County on a regional solution, saying he needs to first look at other options. Meanwhile, the controversial Southern Delivery System water pipeline project is moving forward, and it too could add to drainage problems.

The issues resonate downstream, since the Springs' water drains into Pueblo.

"Pueblo needs assurances that SDS will not increase our flood risk," Pace wrote in the letter. "It is critical that Colorado Springs find a solution to its stormwater problems." — ***JAS***

Compiled by J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck.

More solar power coming

File photo

Colorado Springs Utilities will expand its solar gardening program by adding 10 megawatts eligible for rebates in the next three years, a major increase from the two megawatts developed under a pilot program that ended in 2012.

Solar gardens allow residents to invest in solar power without having panels attached to their homes, which is useful especially for those who rent and those whose rooftops aren't conducive to panel installation.

How rebates are handled will change from an up-front payout to a performance-based incentive, whereby Utilities pays for kilowatt hours generated instead of capacity installed, explains David Amster-Olszewski, owner of solar-garden provider SunShare. The change stems from a city audit that found several problems, including deviation from a requirement that subscribers were supposed to pay their obligation to the developer prior to the developer being paid the incentive.

Amster-Olszewski says the change means the rebate will be paid over 20 years, forcing the solar garden developer to be accountable for the project long-term.

"Instead of getting the rebates upfront, now they have a strong incentive to keep the system running for 20 years," he says in an e-mail.

The program, sanctioned by a majority of the Utilities Board, which is made up of City Council members, will add three megawatts this year, three in 2014 and four in 2015. Reimbursement rates for the solar power bought by Utilities will be 16 cents per kilowatt hour this year, 12 cents in 2014 and 10 cents for 2015.

That will cost ratepayers $21 million over the next 20 years, Utilities officials say.

"What they're trying to get to is zero," says Utilities spokesman Dave Grossman, "where the industry can get by on its own without being subsidized."

Council is expected to vote on the program's new tariff on April 9. The effective date of the program hasn't been determined, Grossman says.

— ***Pam Zubeck***

News

Bananarama

Comprehensive sex ed could get a boost from bill

By J. Adrian Stanley

Condoms and AIDS and embryos — oh my!

The state Legislature once again is venturing into politically dangerous territory — namely, how to teach kids about sex in the classroom.

On Friday, the Colorado House passed HB 1081, which gives a more detailed definition of "comprehensive sex education" and creates a grant program for school districts that agree to teach to those strict standards. The bill proved a party-line issue; all 37 Democrats favored it, while all 28 Republicans opposed it. It has moved to the Democrat-controlled Senate.

There would be 75 grants per year, of about $30,000 each.

Sex ed has been a controversial issue since the early 1990s. Conservatives like local Rep. Amy Stephens, who led the fight against HB1081 (and could not be reached for this story), often argue that it just isn't appropriate for schools to talk about something so personal in the classroom. Indeed, during debate, the *Denver Post* reported, conversations in the House floor digressed to whether teens would be using grape jelly or maple syrup to simulate lubricants in classroom instruction.

But despite the eyebrow-raising banter, local school districts don't seem particularly concerned with HB1081. Representatives from Colorado Springs School District 11 and Academy School District 20 said they would consider the legislation, if it passes.

"We just have to wait and see," says Linda Sanders, D-11's K-12 health and science facilitator.

Surprisingly, a local organization that provides free, abstinence-based curricula and speakers in many local schools, including D-11 high schools, also shrugs off the bill.

Dr. Diane Foley, president of Life Network, told the *Indy* in 2010 that even using a banana in a condom demonstration could be construed as "sexually harassing." But even as today's bill moves along, she says she doesn't fear any earth-rattling changes to her organization, or its "Education for a Lifetime" curriculum.

"I don't think it affects us because we don't have any federal or state funding anymore," notes Foley.

Indeed, HB1081 isn't a mandate — nor is it really that groundbreaking. School districts have long been able to choose how to teach sex ed, and federal grants that date to the George W. Bush era will still give districts money to teach abstinence-only and abstinence-based education.

Rep. Crisanta Duran, who sponsored HB 1081, notes that the state also already has a 2007 law that defines "comprehensive sexual education." Her bill would simply add new language to make the standards more sensitive to at-risk groups, like LGBT kids and rape victims, and add a source of grant funding for school districts that want to teach to that standard.

"It really just gives them more options," she says.

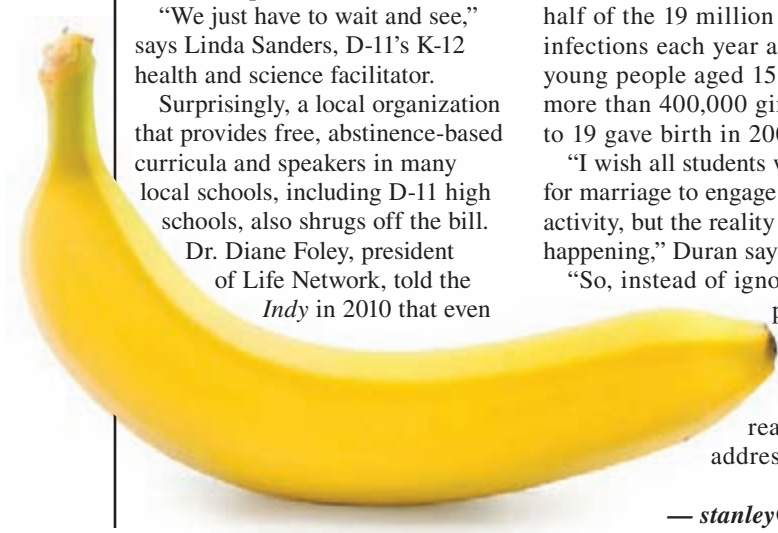
There would be 75 grants per year, of about $30,000 each, for districts to implement the new health classes, whose curriculum would be written by the Colorado Department of Education. The $2.4 million needed annually for the program is expected to come through grants from the federal Affordable Care Act.

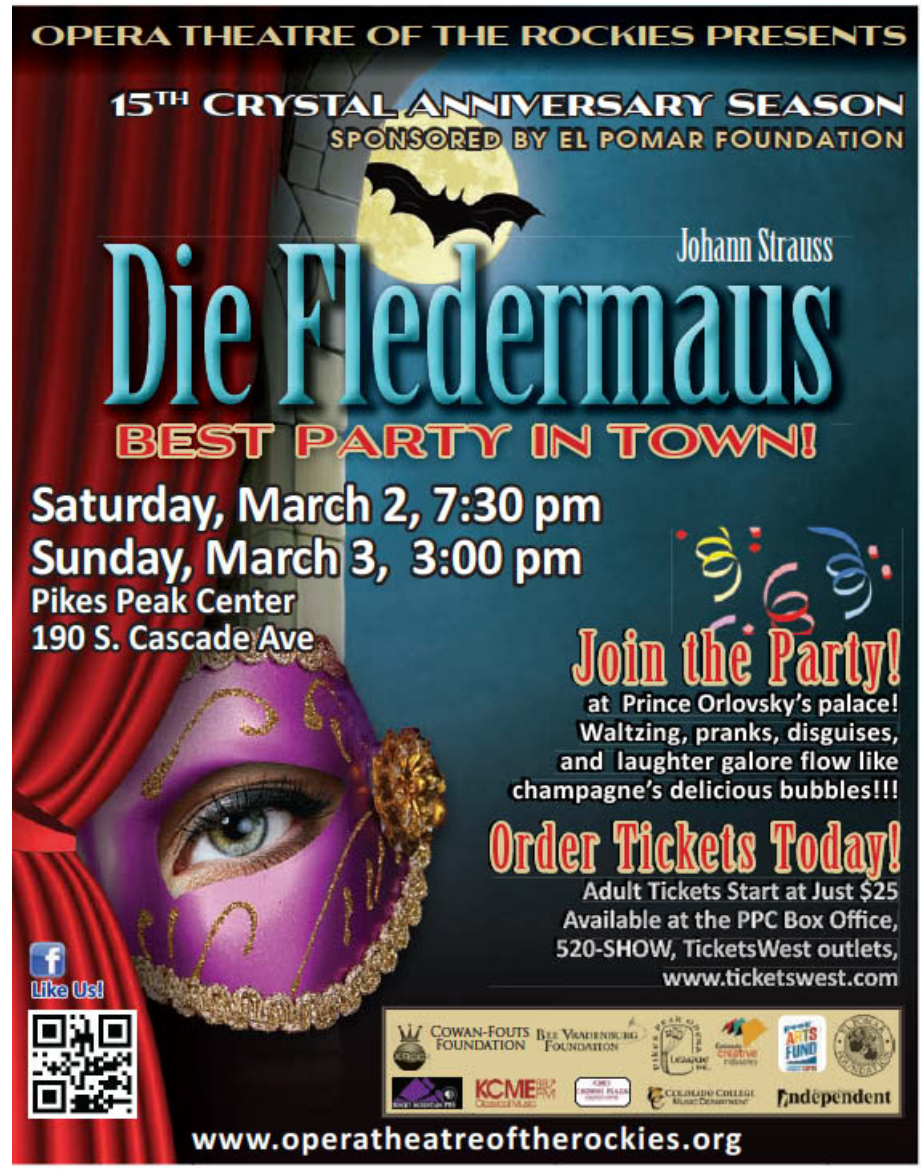
Duran says she hopes more scientific sex ed can help teens make better choices. Indeed, based on a 2011 survey, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 47.4 percent of high schoolers have had sex. More than half of the 19 million new STD infections each year are among young people aged 15 to 24, and more than 400,000 girls aged 15 to 19 gave birth in 2009.

"I wish all students were waiting for marriage to engage in sexual activity, but the reality is that is not happening," Duran says.

"So, instead of ignoring the problem, I think this is one way we can really start to address it."

— stanley@csindy.com





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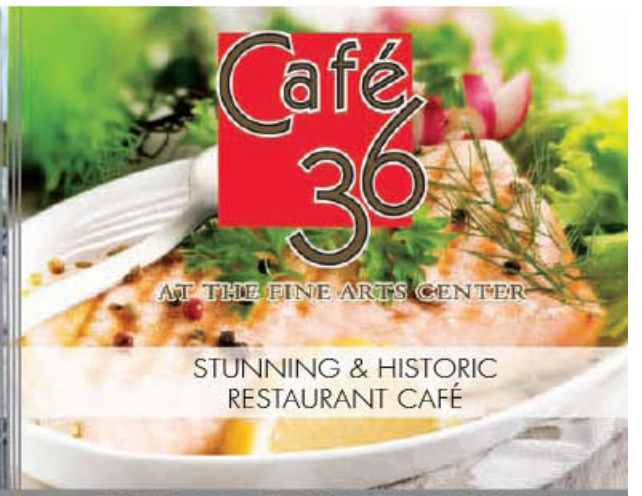

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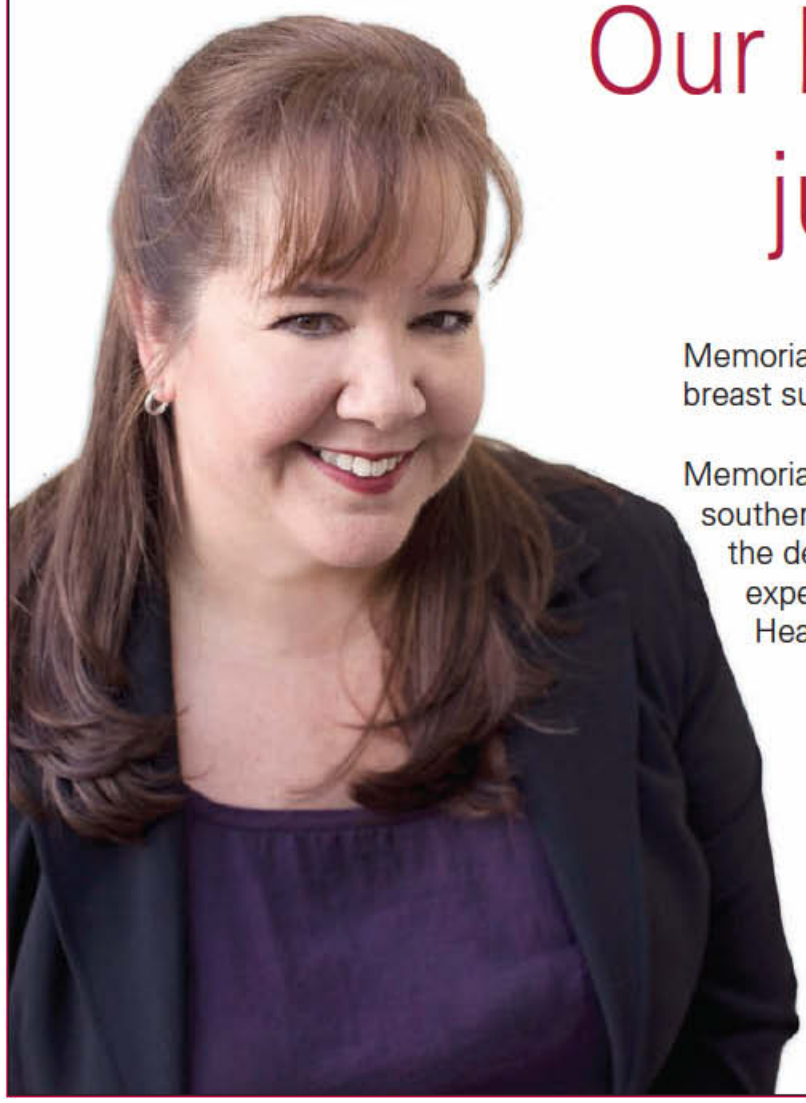

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THE NEW ERA OF CONSPIRACY THINKING

Why people die when we talk about gun control

By Joel Dyer

When it comes to the emotional issue of gun control, Harry Truman had it right when he said, "The only thing new in this world is the history that you don't know."

I've been thinking about Harry's observation quite a bit over the past weeks and months as I've been listening to our latest raging gun control debate. I've been waiting for someone, anyone, to talk about the gun-control elephant in the room, but so far it hasn't happened. I think it's time.

I admit that I have a slightly different concern than most folks when it comes to the subject of gun control. In fact, my main concern, and also my main area of expertise on this subject, really has nothing to do with controlling gun ownership or trying to figure out the best way to stop some of us from murdering the rest of us with assault rifles and the like, which I acknowledge is quite disturbing and happening at an unprecedented rate.

Even so, I believe there is a darker side to our current gun conversation. The elephant is the impact that the gun control debate is having on the conspiracy-driven anti-government movement. Make no mistake about it. We are currently setting the stage for things to literally start blowing up again, big things like federal buildings. And as Harry Truman would surely have relished pointing out, it's happened before for the exact same reasons.

My belief that history is repeating itself when it comes to the radical right is based on my research of the subject over the past 20 years, including spending many months holed up with people in armed compounds across the country, from Texas to Montana to California to Florida. I have written much on the subject, including my first book, *Harvest of Rage: Why Oklahoma City is Only the Beginning*, which I wrote back in the mid 1990s, the last time things were blowing up over the perceived threat of the government taking away citizens' guns.

File photo

April 15, 2010: An Acacia Park rally with a little paramilitary flavor.

The modern militia

You may recall that it was a national furor over the Second Amendment that launched the birth of the modern anti-government militia movement in the early 1990s. The catalyst for the movement's birth was the government's gun-related sting operation against Randy Weaver at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. The sting went badly wrong, and before it was over, Weaver's family was shot to bits by federal agents for what was, at most, a minor gun violation. Weaver's wife Vicki and son Sammy were both killed by federal agents.

Gun owners everywhere were beyond outraged by the government's actions, and the leaders of the violent, racist right — including the heads of Christian Identity churches, Aryan Nations, the KKK, Posse Comitatus and nearly every white supremacist and separatist organization in the country came together in Estes Park shortly after the Ruby Ridge incident and devised a plan to exploit the national anger over guns and government. These racist leaders devised and launched a plan that would eventually result in the creation of a 3-million-strong anti-government militia/constitutionalist movement.

Recruits to these new anti-government organizations that sprang up in every state in the union were told that the government wanted to take away their guns so that it could declare martial law and/or suspend the Constitution and/or imprison American citizens on behalf of the Jews and blacks who were taking over the world. The ultimate threat depended on which group you were in; some were racially motivated, some were not.

These anti-government adherents were told that the U.S. government had been infiltrated by proponents of the one-world government that would stop at nothing, including killing them and their families, in order to take their guns. They used Ruby Ridge as the proof that the conspiracy theory was true.

The racist leaders who planned and

launched the movement were pretty smart. They made the decision to downplay their racial rhetoric in the beginning in order to make the movement more appealing to mainstream Americans such as those in traditional churches, small rural towns, and members of the National Rifle Association whose anti-government rhetoric following Ruby Ridge became the fuel for the new movement's growth.

It all might have died down at some point, except for the federal government's inability to learn from its mistakes. At the same time the anti-government movement was telling anyone who would listen that the feds would do anything to take away your guns — unbelievably, less than a year after Ruby Ridge — the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives launched its monumental failure of a raid on David Koresh's Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, for the purpose of taking guns that had not been properly registered and may have been converted from semi to fully automatic and, of course, arresting the offending gun owners.

The raid resulted in a televised bloodbath followed by a 51-day standoff that resulted in yet another bloodbath and fire.

For David Koresh, who was a conspiracy believer who taught his followers that they would know it was the biblical end times when the government came to get them, the ATF raid to take the Davidians' guns was their confirmation that the end-times conspiracy was true.

Cheryl Casey / Shutterstock.com

U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann has been called a 'militia enabler.'

At the end of the siege, 76 people within the compound had been killed, most of them lost in the fire on the last day of the standoff, many of them women and children. The anti-government sentiment across the country exploded after the Waco debacle and so did the number of people who joined the militia movement. Though no one knew it at the time, a young former soldier by the name of Timothy McVeigh was in the crowd at Waco watching the siege and growing angrier with the government with each passing day.

We all know what happened after that. On the second anniversary of the Waco fire, Timothy McVeigh blew up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 innocent people, including 19 children in a daycare housed in the building. McVeigh and tens of thousands of other anti-government practitioners considered themselves to be at war with our government. For them and their innocent victims, the war was absolutely real.

I remind you of our tragic past in hopes that you will understand my grave concern when I say that the sociological environment that gave birth to the domestic anti-government violence of the 1990s has returned today, more powerful than ever.

If, as Truman said, history is an indicator of future events, then the level of anti-government radicalism that is on the verge of boiling over today far exceeds that which existed 15 to 20 years ago and led to so much racial, religious and conspiracy-fueled violence. Things are worse today because the large end of the anti-government funnel has gotten bigger, much bigger, in recent years.

The funnel

Academics, journalists and watchdog groups who study the anti-government movement have often used the metaphor of a funnel to describe how people transition from merely frustrated with their government into violent radicals at war with their government.

In the 1990s, there was little question by those of us researching the anti-government movement that the NRA represented one of, if not the, largest single organization pouring people into the top of the anti-government funnel. Joining the NRA with their own ax to grind against government were the many rural refugees of the decade-long farm crisis and their urban cousins living in the Rust Belt, who had been likewise economically hammered by unemployment due to the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs and the recession of the late '80s and early '90s.

This isn't to say that there is anything wrong with being a member of the NRA, an unemployed Rust-Belt worker or a foreclosed-on farmer. There isn't.

The premise behind the funnel metaphor is that if you pour enough people into the large end who share a distrust of government — whether it's a distrust based on their interpretation of the Second Amendment, or a distrust by people

who blame the government for their economic troubles — a small number of those people, when continuously exposed to political, racial and religious-based conspiracy theories and associated rhetoric, will eventually become true believers and be forced out of the small end of the funnel as fully radicalized, dangerous individuals who believe it is their duty to fight the government and/or non-whites and/or non-Christians by any means possible, including terrorism and murder.

The theory is that the more people there are entering the top of the funnel, the more violent radicals come out the small end.

So who is entering the top of the funnel these days? It is being filled by a true cornucopia of anti-government sentiment. As evidenced by current media reports, the NRA is still flowing into the funnel with its inflammatory anti-government talking points as a result of the current gun control debate, but it is no longer the largest group entering the anti-government funnel.

BEING ANTI-GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME NEARLY MAINSTREAM.

The tea party, which many observers believe is merely the reincarnation of the 1990s militia movement — that's to say that it's the same people, albeit with a more political than militaristic agenda, at least on the surface — is likely the largest contributor to the funnel. With high profile people like Sarah Palin, who had her own ties to the anti-government movement in Alaska, and Ron Paul with his Federal Reserve and gold standard conspiracies, and Michele Bachmann's militia-informed revisionist American history leading the way, being anti-government has become nearly mainstream.

Adding fuel to this dangerous fire is Fox News, with its constant anti-government whine and frequent repeating of the movement's conspiracy theories, from Obama's birth certificate to "who controls the Federal Reserve?" with its anti-Semitic innuendo. Then throw in the fact that a black man is president, which is a primary motivator for the racist elements of the movement — who believe that blacks are the soulless, mud people henchmen at the command of the Jews, who are trying to control the world — and we have one full anti-government funnel.

It's no wonder that the anti-government watchdog group the Southern Poverty Law Center is reporting that the movement has exploded since 2008 and is now bigger than it has ever been, much bigger than it was last time things started blowing up.

Official White House photo by PeteSouza

Barack Obama's re-election had a sitting Texas judge ready to fight.

But as I said earlier, millions of people get pulled into the top of the funnel and never break the law or do anything more than exercise their right to free speech. So why do some people descend deeper into the funnel than others, and why are some folks such fertile ground for conspiracy theories?

Fertile ground

You could walk up to almost anyone on the street and tell them that the reason our government is trying to control guns and prevent us from owning assault rifles is because U.N. troops are secretly massing on the Mexican side of the Texas border in preparation for an all-out attack on U.S. citizens that has been sanctioned by our own now-corrupt government, which has, due to a series of complex legal maneuverings in the courts, become nothing more than a puppet of the World Bank, which is really just a front for the Jews, who have been plotting this overthrow of America since the day that they spelled out their plans for a one-world government as described in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion ... and you'd probably get a funny look as that person ran away bewildered and disgusted.

It's easy to laugh, but it's really not funny. As crazy as the above conspiracy theory sounds to most people, there are others, hundreds of thousands of others, who absolutely believe that most if not all of the above, admittedly oversimplified for space, conspiracy theories are true.

Conspiracy theories are a complex issue. While they just sound nuts to most people, these theories evolve

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over time with incredible detail and supposedly supporting data. At their core, conspiracy theories explain the secret reason that something that a person doesn't like is happening to them. Enter the psychology behind the conspiracies.

You could write a book on this subject — I know, I did — so trying to explain it in a paragraph isn't easy. At its core, when people become seriously depressed, often due to economic stress from things such as losing your job and not being able to find a new one, or losing a farm or home to foreclosure, their depression stems from blaming themselves for the problem. They believe they are failures who have let down their families. If unchecked, this depression can lead to suicide, as evidenced by the fact that suicide was the No. 1 cause of death on the family farm during the farm crisis.

But the human mind is always looking for a way out. When it comes to self-blame, scapegoating or blame-shifting is the escape of choice. When it comes to blame-shifting economic problems, the No. 1 choice is to blame the government or the banks or, more often than not, both, for what is happening to you.

THERE IS A PAIN-ENDING CONSPIRACY SALVE FOR EVERY PROBLEM A PERSON CAN HAVE.

So when someone tells you that your problems aren't your fault, it's the banks' or the government's fault, and then they start weaving this incredibly detailed tale of how Satan is fighting God, and the government has been infiltrated, and how you are merely a victim in this cosmic war that now needs you as a soldier to restore America to its rightful place as the super number one most special and blessed country in the world ... it feels like a salve to your unbearably painful psychological wounds. There is literally a pain-ending conspiracy salve for every problem a person can have.

The closer you are to the bottom, the more fertile your mind becomes for the planting of a conspiracy theory. Anyone can fall prey to conspiracy thinking.

For example, last August, a sitting Texas judge made headlines for publicly declaring that, should Obama win a second term, he was putting together a local militia to combat U.N. forces that Obama would mass at the Mexican border to attack us. We all laughed, but we shouldn't have. The truth is, there were nearly a hundred grown men with guns, all products of the funnel, actually willing to drive south to the border and start shooting people if this judge told them to.

This was occurring at a time when there was already speculation among law enforcement and those who monitor the radical right that American vigilantes may already be murdering undocumented migrants along the border.

This stuff isn't funny. People are dying. It doesn't matter that you think conspiracy theories are stupid. What matters is that a shocking number of people believe them with every fiber of their body.

And for those people — true believers like Tim McVeigh and Olympic Park/abortion clinic bomber Eric Rudolph, tax protester and Posse leader Gordon Kahl, Sikh Temple killer Wade Page, the seven anti-government radicals in Louisiana who killed two cops in August, the 65-year-old man who, just weeks ago, shot a school bus driver and took a 6-year-old hostage in his bunker, the radicals in Georgia accused of killing a couple to get nearly $100,000 in weapons for the coming race war, the hundreds of thousands of people who call themselves sovereigns, and countless others who believe that they are at war with their government — every time the issue of gun control starts making headlines, the ensuing debate becomes yet another confirmation that the conspiracy theories they have latched onto are true. And these true believers who have popped out of the small end of the anti-government funnel are willing to murder and terrorize and blow things up in their effort to win a war that the vast majority of us don't even know is being waged.

There are few things more powerful or dangerous than a mind being driven by hate-fueled conspiracy thinking.

The conspiracy theories are always with us, as is the anti-government funnel, but there are certain times when the headlines, at least to true believers, appear to confirm the truth of those conspiracies, and that is when things can quickly get out of hand and dangerous.

Unfortunately, I believe that we have now entered such a time because we have been in the worst recession in U.S. history, with no thanks to our banks, and we have a black president who is leading the charge to restrict gun ownership. It's a conspiracy theorist's wet dream that will likely unleash a period of sporadic, isolated anti-government terrorism.

I hope that I'm wrong.

Joel Dyer is a journalist, author and editor of the **Boulder Weekly,** *where this story was originally printed. He's written two books,* **Harvest of Rage: Why Oklahoma City Is Only the Beginning** *and* **Perpetual Prisoner Machine: How America Profits From Crime,** *both published by Basic Books and available at amazon.com.*

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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FOX21 NEWS

7 Days to Live

27 WEDNESDAY

lecture

The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science

The big name in tonight's 7 o'clock panel at Colorado College's **Armstrong Hall** (14 E. Cache la Poudre St., coloradocollege.edu) is **Richard Dawkins**. Yes, the internationally known atheist, evolutionary biologist and author of everything from *The Selfish Gene* to *The God Delusion* to his most recent *The Magic of Reality*, will be here with three of his compatriots to discuss religious agendas in public schools. More specifically, the conversation will revolve around the Child Evangelism Fellowship's Good News Clubs. (We don't actually have any here in the Springs; why we don't, in such a heavily religious community, might be an interesting question to ask.) Tickets are $10 and available at rdf-ticketing.myshopify.com. **— *KA***

28 THURSDAY

books

By now, the name **Jim Moore** should sound familiar to you. The poet and guest professor has been part of Colorado College's Visiting Writers Series for several years, and he returns again at 7 this evening in the **Gates Common Room** (1025 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu) for a free reading. Moore earned a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2012 following the 2011 release of *Invisible Strings*; *New and Selected*, his eighth compilation, is expected later this year. Read his bio on Guggenheim's website for a taste of what informs his work, including time spent incarcerated as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and the witnessing of a terrorist attack at a U.S. airport. Heady stuff, fit for a poet's hands and your ears. **— *MS***

2 SATURDAY

dance

To butcher a little Shakespeare: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to shake and shimmy them hips, or to have them shimmied and shaken at thee, that is the question. And if it's not now, it will be at ***Purple Haze***, today's live belly dance performance at **Zodiac** (230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059), which gets things jigglin' at 8. The $8 tickets offer live music from Roma Ransom and entertainment from a variety of '60s-themed luminaries. Just heed Hendrix's observation: "Purple haze all around / Don't know if I'm comin' up or down / Am I happy or in misery / Whatever it is, that girl put a spell on me." **— *BC***

1 FRIDAY

art

From 5 to 8 tonight, and for free, more than 30 artists will be ***Representing the West*** at the **Sangre de Cristo Arts Center** (210 N. Sante Fe Ave., Pueblo, sdc-arts.org), in a reprise of what the Sangre calls one of its "most anticipated shows." If you're looking for a lesser-known quantity, stay in town and head over to the **Modbo** (17C E. Bijou St., themodbo.wordpress.com) for works by artists Logan Bartlett and Monique Viger, with Cole Bennett and Shannon Dunn right next door at **S.P.Q.R.** Those also free shows will begin at 5:30 and will roll on until midnight, with live music beginning at 8 from Chela Lujan, Desirae Garcia and Briffaut. **— *MB***

3 SUNDAY

music

Joe Ely may not have been the biggest name joining Bruce Springsteen and his E Street Band during their performance at last year's SXSW festival, but it's easy to see why the Texas singer-songwriter was among the most respected. He toured with the Clash and sang backup vocals on "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" He collaborates with Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Butch Hancock as the Flatlanders, whom *American Songwriter* recently hailed as the "founding fathers of Americana." And his 2011 release, *Satisfied at Last*, snuck onto *Billboard*'s Heatseekers and Country charts (at Nos. 18 and 46, respectively), a rare accomplishment for a self-released album. Ely plays the **Soiled Dove Underground** (7401 E. First Ave., Denver, soileddove.com) at 7 this evening for $20 to $25. **— *BF***

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Jason Lewis presents Sustainability: An Explorer's Tale, 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 27 at UCCS

Before you know it
Jeff Dunham, March 9 at the World Arena

Potato pick
Hacking the Planet series premiere, 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28 on the Weather Channel

Have you heard?
Help Civil Unions pass with this petition and postcard program: tinyurl.com/abhbyqf

CU Art Museum/© CU Art Museum, University of Colorado Boulder

4 MONDAY

art

If the names Hokusai, Hiroshige, Kuniyoshi and Kunisada mean anything to you, I have good news: Artwork from these masters of Japanese woodblock prints are now on display in Boulder, by way of the **CU Art Museum** (1085 18th St., cuartmuseum.colorado.edu), which holds the pieces in its permanent collection. This is unusual, given that geographic location often determines a museum's holdings and we couldn't be farther from Japan. However, that doesn't mean ***From Cherry Blossoms to Snow Gardens: The Floating World of Japanese Prints*** will be up for long, just through March 23. So whether or not you're much of fan, know that like all things *ukiyo-e*, this exhibit is just passing through. No fee, suggested donation of $5. ***— EA***

5 TUESDAY

music

It is written that, from the fires of Beelzebub, a fortune teller forged a prophecy, that from the lips of the devil will be uttered the Last Words of the Apocalypse, and he will say "All Promises Aside, our Vital Malice will give way to Aesthetic Delirium Till We Rise and Awaken the Prophets, and they will chant 'From Ashes We Rise to Restore All Vengeance.'" What this sentence means I really don't know, but it was a clever way to list the eight metal bands performing in the **Sumerian Records Battle of the Bands** tonight at the **Black Sheep** (2106 E. Platte Ave., blacksheeprocks.com, $10). Doors at 5, all ages admitted. ***— MG***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Miguel Bustamante, Bryce Crawford, Bill Forman, Matthew Grieson and Matthew Schniper.

'A little bit naughty'

Opera Theatre of the Rockies toasts a milestone with the feisty and flirtatious *Die Fledermaus*

By RyAnne Scott

Wild parties. Drunken antics and dancing. Elaborate pranks. They're not the first things that come to mind when you think of opera.

When Opera Theatre of the Rockies presents Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* on March 2 and 3 at the Pikes Peak Center, the popular operetta's revelry will perfectly match the company's festive mood in 2013, its 15th anniversary season.

"*Die Fledermaus* is just a good night on the town," says Linda Ade Brand, the show's stage director. "It's fun and a little bit naughty."

'Can't you just blame everything on the alcohol?'

First performed in 1874, the operetta revolves around Dr. Falke's attempt to get his revenge on his friend Gabriel von Eisenstein through an elaborate prank that involves a party, Eisenstein's wife Rosalinde and other assorted characters. For years, Falke has been biding his time to pay back Eisenstein for leaving him passed out in the woods following a costume party, which led to an early morning walk of shame through the town square dressed in full bat regalia. Not to mention the infuriating nickname, "Dr. Bat" ("bat" is *fledermaus* in German), which he's never shaken.

Falke's time has come. He's involved with another costume party, this time thrown by a prince, to which everyone is going. Eisenstein and Rosalinde, having been together just long enough that the initial thrill is gone, are ready to jump at the chance to spend an evening in disguise. But Eisenstein — who is supposed to be headed to jail for insulting an official — sneaks off to the ball without Rosalinde.

When a Hungarian countess arrives, Eisenstein can't take his eyes off her and mercilessly flirts with her. He doesn't realize it's his wife.

"Rosalinde sort of gets her groove back. In a strange sort of way, her husband is attracted to that same woman all over again," Brand says. "Little does he know, he's in the doghouse really soon, because she knows he doesn't recognize her."

Opera Theatre of the Rockies regulars may feel twinges of recognition during the performance, as the company makes playful references to its past productions. In the first act, when Rosalinde meets her old lover Alfred, audiences will recognize the duo as Annamarie Zmolek and Joel Burcham, who played lovers in last year's production of *La Traviata*. (This will really sink in when Alfred serenades her with snippets from the Italian libretto.)

In the second act, the Hungarian countess sings a rousing number to get costumed partygoers moving. The elaborate dance will showcase magnificent costumes from 15 years of company productions.

Audiences will also have a chance to delve deeper into the show. One hour prior to each performance, Brand and conductor Christopher Zemliauskas will discuss *Die Fledermaus* for ticket holders on the mezzanine level of the Pikes Peak Center. "I'll probably take it mostly from the point of view of Falke, and all of the things that were on this to-do list to make this elaborate practical joke happen," Brand says.

After a night of irresistible music, waltzing, intrigue and jokes, Falke pulls off his prank. Do any hard feelings linger? Well, the morning after, there's a lot of talk about champagne.

"Can't you just blame everything on the alcohol?" asks Zmolek. "It's funny because it's just a handy little excuse. There's a lot of willful suspension of disbelief.

"*Die Fledermaus* is an interesting little story about disguises. There's a truth to it about the masks we all wear."

—scene@csindy.com.

CAPSULE

Opera Theatre of the Rockies' *Die Fledermaus*

Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m.

Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave.

Tickets: $23-$65; for more information, call 520-7469 or visit ticketswest.com.

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Appetite

Cold mountain

Tapas and temperature problems lead at Carmen

By Bryce Crawford

At the same time we were walking into it, an elderly couple was leaving the restaurant named after, and co-owned by, Carmen Aurand. "This is definitely the best restaurant in Woodland Park," one said to the other in the doorway. They sounded like they'd found a find.

Brienne Boortz

On the plus side: an empanada stuffed with Gouda, kissed with white chocolate.

And Carmen is certainly an interesting option in the City Above the Clouds, adding a color of its own to a food scene that continues to show flashes of promise. But ultimately the new tapas bar next to Domino's wound up proving difficult for us to recommend to anybody not already local to Midland Avenue.

It wasn't the cozily decorated dining room, done up in dark colors and wine trappings and split between two ends with the kitchen in the middle. It was everything else.

For instance, the value-conscious wine list is small but solid, offering one selection each of individual varieties from vineyards in the Americas and Europe.

But it was no pleasure to drink a going-sour $6 glass of Pinot Noir from Lost Angel Wines that our server originally forgot to bring. And while a bananas Foster martini ($7.50) could have been the perfect liquid dessert, the hot breath of alcohol ripping through every unbalanced sip wouldn't let it.

That misplaced bit of heat aside, it was almost all cold, all the time. Our half of the dining room was so chilly — coolness pouring off of the many windows perfectly placed for views of Pikes Peak — we did as our fellow diners had done and donned coats until, thankfully and with our gratitude for her care, the server noticed and cranked the heat.

All that just left the food from chef Carlos Macis. Four lukewarm bacon-wrapped dates ($6) were probably the highlight of our dinner, though they were overmatched by the spicy orange sauce drizzled below, not to mention the hardly complementary side of pungent, marinated olives. A tepid, stuffed Anaheim chili ($6.50) was packed with gray, stringy crab meat that tasted like canned tuna. (Points for the zingin' side of pico, though.) And the Basque flatbread ($6.50) of sausage, tomatoes, olives and onions came off more like pieces piled on bread than something whole.

We appreciated that our server thought to split a moderately overcooked but pretty good filet of ahi tuna ($15) with grilled vegetables and saffron rice between two plates. But it was all butter and no spice with the yellow rice, and no crunch to the yellow squash and zucchini.

Full satisfaction finally came at dessert, with the house-made, Gouda-stuffed empanada ($5) topped with a syrupy fruit-compote and white chocolate.

And we did enjoy another standout at lunch. Though the room was again cold enough for coats, four succulent meatballs of chorizo, lamb and beef, called *albondigas* ($6), dripped juices while singing a harmonious song of fennel and anise, with a gorgeously bright sofrito interlude. It was like being broke and finding 50 bucks.

That unexpected bit of mastery reverted, though, with a not-unredeemable bison burger ($9), which was cooked well past our requested medium-rare and whose split-roll bun fell into chunks after just a few bites. Finally, a pair of overcooked lamb chops ($16) brought stiff, gristly parts and thick, salty brown gravy, to say nothing of its side of high-sodium soup laden with mushy vegetables. They did, however, manage some appeal — at least they were hot.

— bryce@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Carmen, a Tapas Grill and Bar
609 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 686-6492
Daily, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

A better buffet?

All-you-can-eat buffets outside of expensive resorts must always battle the stigma of slinging mass-produced, often subpar grub on the cheap. A quantity-quality game, to be sure.

Fully aware of this truism, Patrick and Sherry Reitmayer took a novel approach to **Salt of the Earth** (3536 N. Academy Blvd., cateringcoloradosprings.net), the new addition to their two-year-old catering business. As of Jan. 1, they began opening with weekly, themed, smaller-item buffet menus Mondays through Thursdays to supplement their busier weekend catering schedule.

The focused format allows the couple — who combine for 35 years' culinary experience, despite each being in their mid-30s — to test and receive feedback on planned catering menu items, plus keep their work fun and fresh, says Patrick. Limiting items makes it easier to achieve that freshness, in particular.

For example, this week's all-you-can-eat buffet menu ($11.95; $10.95 seniors; $5.95 kids) features only: caramelized onion balsamic or white cheddar chicken, cheddar mashed potatoes, a full salad bar, dinner rolls, "fudge meltaways" and raspberry white chocolate mousse, plus included tea, lemonade or coffee.

Cooking everything from scratch also helps distinguish Salt's buffet (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.), which does offer gluten-free alternatives by request and a fixed à la carte menu ($8.95 to $9.95 for main plus sides) anytime between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.

View the website to see two months' worth of eclectic menu samples.

Woodland bark

Don Hagan wants to start by talking about his fries at month-old **Casey's Dog House Grill** (108 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-9649).

"They take two days to make," he says, describing a process of hand-cutting, brining overnight in salt water and vinegar, preblanching, then cooking to order. "They're really crispy and golden brown — they taste like a potato, not like grease."

And Hagan, a former Pizza Hut manager-turned-cop-turned-car-salesman, says that attention to detail persists through his small menu of brats, dogs, sliders, wings and a few other items that are available alongside quality Colorado microbrews.

For example, portobello mushrooms for the vegetarian sliders also see a lengthy marinade, house red and green chilies are balanced for heat and flavor, and meats are all charred on a lava rock grill. Triple pork sliders (with chorizo, bacon and ground pork) see a smoky paprika mayo "Doghouse Sauce." The hot dogs are commercial, all-beef, angus quarter-pounders, but Denver's Continental Sausage supplies the brats, which get house-baked Brotchen rolls.

— Matthew Schniper

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Dine&Dash Quick takes on food and drink

Pho 5 Sao

1512 N. Academy Blvd., 550-8855

Located in the former El Siete Mares space since September, Pho 5 Sao features a menu that consists of around 70 percent Chinese standards (as lunch specials for $5.95 to $6.59), and 30 percent Vietnamese pho and noodle bowls plus steamed rice plates.

From the first category, a ***Bun Tom Nuong*** (shrimp lemongrass vermicelli bowl, $7.50) shows off a flavorful char on eight medium-sized prawns garnished in green onions and cilantro, and sweetened by a dousing of *nuoc cham* (that ubiquitous sweet fish sauce). From the latter, the ***Bo Luc Lac*** (shaken beef plate, $8.50), named quite literally for its agitation inside the wok, is your basic brown stir-fry (oyster sauce- and soy-based, I surmise) with the semi-sweet meat joined by potatoes, white onions and minced garlic flecks. Garlic powder, salt and a fresh lime wedge add a little character, but I don't feel overly shaken up, myself, for having tried it. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Texas T-Bone Steakhouse

5245 N. Academy Blvd., 434-4771, texastbonesteakhouse.com

If you've ever heard the restaurant's indelible jingle, you're going to hate me after this: "Steaks done riigght: Tex-as Tee Bonnne!" The little earworm is everywhere — the restaurant's crew even sings it when they appear at food festivals. But despite it living in my subconscious, I'd never stepped foot in the four-location chain. In fact, the last time I was even in the northernmost spot, it was a Bennett's Bar-B-Que.

Texas T-Bone has done well in the years since then, the current iteration boasting a U-shaped bar and the usual Texas Roadhouse barrel of peanuts. The eponymous, inch-thick **T-bone steak** ($24.95) cut a fine figure, all glistening fat and salty, crosshatched char so black you could taste the combustion. Five juicy butterflied shrimp came free, along with a mondo build-your-own salad. Dig the dense and chewy house bread with cinnamon butter, but watch out for steak knives that more tear than cut. — ***Bryce Crawford***

Dan's Mtn. Post Espresso

993 N. Santa Fe Ave., Fountain, 970/580-4343

You can't miss Dan Wellmann's bright purple drive-through on your way into downtown Fountain. And if you're well-traveled, you may recall the structure from when it was located in Peyton in '99-'00 under his watch, and in Falcon later under another owner. Wellmann re-established it here this past July, sourcing his beans from Platte Avenue's Spanish Peaks Coffee.

I take his recommendation for an "authentic" **caramel macchiato** ($3.25/16 ounces) versus "the Starbucks version," on which he also offers a spin. Minus the vanilla syrup and caramel sauce, the authentic contains about half the sugar, which is all from a single ounce of DaVinci caramel syrup added to 2-percent steamed milk and two espresso shots. (I get decaf, which he says is a little darker-roast flavored.) The result is velvety-smooth liquid butterscotch nearly overwhelming all the coffee essence — a delight to many, the devil to others. — ***Matthew Schniper***

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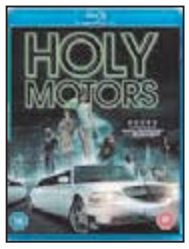

Holy Motors (NR)
Indomina

On Oscar night, a very different Oscar emerged as a cult-ish specter on social media: Denis Lavant's Monsieur Oscar, a shape-shifting businessman, or possibly performance artist, who, along with limo-driving assistant (Edith Scob), violently yet elegiacally navigates through a dreamlike day of role-playing. Or a fantastical night of sleeping. Whatever the case, *Holy Motors* gives us Oscar's rooftop duet with Kylie Minogue, which serves as both a meditation on the loss of director Leos Carax's recently deceased partner and as a swan song for the short-lived Indomina film studio, which produced the film and said goodbye with a mere tweet ("It was a fun ride."). From that to the movie's sewer-dwelling gnome, it's all superb. Its thrilling originality was in the hearts of many a cinephile as Ben Affleck accepted Best Picture for his mediocre outing. Call *Holy Motors* the true "people's choice," a visionary film that'll live on long after "Argofuckyourself" stops being cute. — ***Justin Strout***

Special Forces (R)
Entertainment One

With gritty procedurals about elite soldiers rescuing white people/killing brown people all the rage, thanks to recent flicks like *Act of Valor* and *Zero Dark Thirty*, this well-made international affair, starring Djimon Hounsou and Diane Kruger, provides 109 minutes of quite watchable material. War reporter Elsa (Kruger) gets herself taken hostage in Afghanistan by the dastardly Taliban, and Special Forces are dispatched to save her. The tables turn, however, when the pursuers become the pursuees and have to navigate through the mountains of the Hindu Kush. (That's not what you think it is, Coloradans.) Filled with a steady supply of pulse-pounding tension, eye-opening social commentary, balls-to-the-wall action and some truly breathtaking cinematography, *Special Forces* is definitely the cream that rises to the top of this aforementioned subgenre and provides a welcome change of pace from Hollywood's version of what they think heroic soldiers should be. — ***Louis Fowler***

The Package (R)
Anchor Bay Home Entertainment

The Expendables gravy train keeps a-rolling in the latest blow-'em-up straight-to-DVD actioner *The Package*. It's as if these producers are spinning a wheel to pick which *Expendable* is going to star in their films. Here we land Dolph Lundgren and "Stone Cold" Steve Austin. Austin is Tommy Wick, your everyday nightclub bouncer/Seattle mob enforcer who is tasked with delivering the titular package to a big-time crime boss known as "The German" (Lundgren). But, wouldn't you know it: Everybody wants Wick's package, and a relatively low-budget army comes out of the woodwork to grab it. We can all pretty much surmise that *The Package* is stupid, but as far as totally mindless, quickly entertaining action flicks go, this is definitely the full package. Austin and Lundgren look like they're having a good time, so I guess there's no reason why we can't, either. — ***Louis Fowler***

Film

Sloppily ever after

Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13)

By Scott Renshaw

As soon as the closing credits for *Jack the Giant Slayer* began to roll, I knew I was in dangerous territory. Once again, I was about to enter the "lighten up" zone.

'These aren't the giants you're looking for.'

Every one of my film-critic colleagues has been there. It's that place where they're about to crap all over big-budget escapist fare, and they know the ensuing comments are going to play the "You snooty critics don't know how to appreciate fun" card. Phrases littered with "it's just" will be bandied about: "It's just a comic-book movie." "It's just entertainment." And then the kicker: "Lighten up."

Indeed, *Jack* seems fabricated specifically to engender such sentiments, so resolutely does it avoid anything that inspires a moment's afterthought. It starts by making itself a fairy tale about a fairy tale: In a long-ago land, young farm boy Jack and the princess Isabelle both hear from their respective parents the already-legendary story about monks using magic beans to try to reach heaven, and how a magic crown tamed the man-eating giants from a kingdom above the clouds.

Ten years later, Jack (Nicholas Hoult) has made the familiar exchange of the family horse for some of those beans, and a chance encounter with Isabelle (Eleanor Tomlinson) sets him on an adventure up a giant beanstalk to rescue the princess, and perhaps try to save the kingdom.

There's plenty more table-setting required before we get to the good stuff. Because we're people of an enlightened age, Isabelle needs to be a spunky adventure-seeker, although as the plot plays out she's really more theoretically strong and independent-minded than someone actually demonstrating intellect or resourcefulness.

Stanley Tucci plays the nobleman Roderick, Isabelle's intended husband and our villain, who plans to use the crown and beans to rally an army of giants for world conquest, all while being unburdened by anything resembling motivation. And Ian McShane (as the king) and Ewan McGregor (as Elmont, the head of the king's guards) try to wring some personality between the large chunks of time when they aren't given anything interesting to do.

You'd like to think it'll all be worth the wait once we get to the giants' land of Gantua, which resembles leftover concept drawings for Pandora bought at a James Cameron garage sale. But director Bryan Singer (*X-Men*) and his team spend virtually no time on world-building, providing little sense for why the giants are bitter about being denied access to the human world simply because it contains their favorite snack.

The design of the creatures themselves is appropriately grotesque, and Bill Nighy does solid voice work as the two-headed leader of the giants. Yet it's hard to become fully engrossed in this strange world when the most interesting thing the giants do is fart, scratch their armpits and eat their own boogers. These are human-eating, 30-foot-tall beasts, and they're boring.

That's at the center of what's so aggravating about *Jack the Giant Slayer*: It's so colossally lazy. Singer can direct a decent action set piece, but his climactic battle between giants and humans feels like warmed-over Helm's Deep from *The Two Towers*. The cast is full of actors who can be appealing and lively, but they're all wasted.

Hollywood has spent a lot of time lately scrounging up public-domain properties like Snow White to turn into features, because latching on to a familiar marketing premise is half the work. Here, it feels as though that was all the work anyone was willing to do. Nothing about the experience should make a viewer feel "lightened up," except maybe in the wallet.

— *scene@csindy.com*

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Amour (PG-13)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant
Beautiful Creatures (PG-13)	Lame	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Enjoy
A Good Day to Die Hard (R)	Lame	Lame	Lame	NOT REVIEWED
Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13)	Lame	NOT REVIEWED	NOT REVIEWED	NOT REVIEWED
Side Effects (R)	Brilliant	Wait for DVD	Brilliant	Brilliant

KEY: Brilliant · Enjoy · Wait for DVD · Lame

Visit csindy.com and m.csindy.com for more reviews and movie times.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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Sanctuary, Blended Style with Choir
9:45 a.m.
Fellowship Hall, Contemporary
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Sanctuary, Contemporary
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Beginning to see the light

Austin's underrated Blind Pets stumble upon high-profile soundtrack success

By Bill Forman

The South by Southwest Music Festival is to indie rock what Schwab's Pharmacy was to aspiring movie stars in the 1940s. Just as Iowa farm girls flocked to the famed Hollywood hangout in hopes of becoming the next Lana Turner, countless bands trek to Austin, Texas in hopes of being "discovered" by someone, anyone.

Blind Pets: Placement alongside Johnny Thunders and Marilyn Manson on the Californication *soundtrack hasn't stopped SXSW from turning them down.*

So it's more than a little ironic that the Blind Pets — an Austin band that's repeatedly been *rejected* by SXSW — should end up forging a connection during the conference that led to its placement on the newest soundtrack album for the smash Showtime series *Californication*. (Their episode will air on March 10.)

Typically compared by critics to Queens of the Stone Age and Mudhoney, the group was playing one of many "unofficial showcases" held during the festival — this one in a Sixth Street cantina called Chupacabra — when an agent for a New York music licensing company wandered by.

Two years later, Blind Pets are pretty much the least-known band on the *Californication* collection, which features tracks by Ryan Adams, Warren Zevon, Joe Walsh, and the Mark Lanegan Band. Less likely still is the fact that "Fever" (which first appeared on the band's debut album *Smashed*) is the new album's third track, nestled right between Johnny Thunders and, uh, Marilyn Manson.

"It's kind of funny because Marilyn Manson is definitely the genre of music that I was into when I was 13 and pissed off at the world," says Blind Pets frontman Joshua Logan, noting how "Fever" was a song that came to him really quickly. "So now it's come back around full circle. It's like 15 years later, Marilyn Manson is still doing his thing, and we end up on this soundtrack."

Still, Logan couldn't be happier. "Being right next to Johnny Thunders is a complete honor," he says of the music world's most beloved dead junkie. "I mean, he's definitely a legend, you know? Oh yeah. I'm constantly living under a 'Chinese Rock.'"

Logan's also constantly amazed by SXSW judges, who have once again rejected his band's application to be one of the event's 1,000-plus showcasing artists. By this point, though, the Blind Pets have gotten used to it.

"They'll accept some crummy band from Iowa before they'll accept bands that are here in Austin," says Logan, echoing a common complaint among musicians in "The Live Music Capital of the World." "The festival used to be about the city bringing people from out of town to showcase Austin artists. But it's gotten bigger and bigger by pulling more bands from out of town.

"It's a business decision, you know, but it sucks for the local bands that made it possible for the city to even *have* a festival. I mean, last year there was a giant Doritos vending machine that bands played in. It's like Austin is really whoring itself."

Indeed, while Austinites were once annoyed by the influx of record labels that descended upon their city like magpies drawn to a big shiny object, the current wave of corporate sponsors with more blatantly mercenary aims is making record-industry vultures seem quaint by comparison.

"Yeah, totally," says Logan. "It's like, 'Ooh, Stepdaddy didn't hit me as hard as *Step*-stepdaddy.'"

Don't worry, be grungy

Logan, who grew up on grunge, says his fascination with music actually dates back to early childhood. One of seven kids raised by a single mother, he was a little kid when his mom gave him a cassette of Bobby McFerrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

"I played that thing forwards and backwards," he recalls with a laugh. "I played it to where it sounded like Alvin and the Chipmunks was doing a cover of it. Finally I conned my mother into taking 10-year-old me to get Pearl Jam's *Ten*, which was awesome."

Just like Bobby McFerrin, Pearl Jam spoke to the future musician, but in a considerably less lighthearted way.

"Eddie Vedder wrote a lot about his father abusing him, and I was a little pissed off about not meeting my real dad. And then Kurt Cobain, he was pissed off, too, you know what I mean? So it was perfect, because it was a way to deal with my own personal anxiety."

Later on, Nirvana's "Come as You Are" would be the first song Logan learned to play on guitar. He continues to love both bands to this day.

"I was kind of upset that Kurt Cobain and Eddie Vedder couldn't get along. Everybody else was like, 'Yeah, fuck Eddie Vedder.' 'Oh yeah? Well, you know what? Screw Kurt Cobain!' I'm like, 'Man, come on, can't they both just get along?' Like, they're both in my tape collection. I don't know what to do. Should I put Bobby McFerrin in between them?"

Perfectly smashed guitar

While Logan and co-founding bassist Dustin Hannah — along with relatively new drummer Michael Anthony Gibson — still have no problem channeling their aggressions into music, they aim to capture a more multi-dimensional sound on their forthcoming third album, *Heavy Petting*.

"I would definitely say this record is more Beatles than Stones," says Logan. "I mean, I love the Stones — but the Stones did one thing great, while the Beatles did several things great. We've definitely gone for more of a refined sound, which is kind of how we're evolving. The record's just all over the place, you know? It's not just a heavy rock 'n roll album."

That said, live Blind Pets shows can still be pretty cathartic, especially when Logan's in one of his more destructive moods. A five-year-old video on the Blind Pets' YouTube channel witnesses him engaging in the kind of behavior John Hiatt decried in "Perfectly Good Guitar."

So how is it that most bands make smashing guitars look easy, while Logan's technique, with more than a half-dozen sledge hammer-style swings before the instrument finally gives way, makes it look really difficult — and maybe a little amateurish?

"That was the first one I ever smashed, and I was really angry, and didn't want it to be something that was fast or whatever," explains Logan, noting that he kept hitting the guitar on its edge, bashing up his hand in the process, rather than what he calls "pancaking it for show."

"So yeah, I looked a bit 'amateur' doing it, but it was more of a ritual. Although afterward I realized that was the hardest fucking way to do it."

As for the band's plans after finishing up this tour, Logan says he'll go back to his "really random" day job as a merchandiser for a hummus company, get in some practices before next month's unofficial SXSW shows, and finally see the *Californication* episode in which his song will appear.

"I'm really amped-up about seeing the episode on March 10," he enthuses. "Actually, none of us have cable, so we're gonna have to hook up with somebody who does. Or we'll just wait and watch it online on March 11.

"I know that sounds kind of lame, but you do what you can, you know?"

— bill@csindy.com

CAPSULE

The Blind Pets, with Tom Hanks

Friday, March 1, 9 p.m.

Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave.

Tickets: $3, 21-plus; 555nickel.com, 477-9555.

AudioFile

Reservation blues

Otis Taylor takes an unblinking look at a national tragedy

By Brian Palmer

Longtime genre-bending blues musician Otis Taylor is keenly aware of the universality of suffering. While a lot of his music has focused on the more difficult aspects of the African-American experience throughout history, the content from his latest release, *My World Is Gone,* has a decidedly more Native American bent to it. That's only fitting, given that the direction for the album was largely sparked by a comment that renowned Native American singer and guitarist, Mato Nanji, made to Taylor not long ago.

A well-Taylored album: 'You don't want it to be super dark all the time.'

"I was backstage at a Jimi Hendrix tribute concert," Taylor says. "Everybody's talking and we're all just complaining about things, and all of a sudden Mato Nanji said, 'My world is gone.' And we all sort of looked at each other and said, 'Whoa, that's so heavy.' I said, 'I'm going to write a song about that,' and then a couple weeks later we started work and put it on the album and I had him play on it."

The title track is a mid-tempo shuffler that sets the tone for the album, as the Boulder-based Taylor imbues his raspy vocals with disheartened resignation over the erosion of the Native American world that white society continues to subjugate. "Sand Creek Massacre Mourning" is a chilling piece of Americana, its march-like drumbeat and horn section bringing additional eeriness to a song about Colorado militia massacring and injuring scores of Cheyenne and Arapaho back in 1864.

But Taylor makes his strongest statement about the harsh realities of life on "Never Been to the Reservation," when he reminds listeners that the plight of the Native Americans is ongoing, their desolation never-ending.

"If you ever go to the reservation, it's pretty dismal," Taylor says. "Their suffering is still going on, but the rest of the world moves on. They're forgotten people. The whole world keeps forgetting about them. People watch cowboys and Indians movies now. It's just the way things are. We don't talk a lot about slavery either until they release a movie like *Lincoln*. But this is way worse because it's still happening."

Throughout his career — which includes a hiatus from 1977 to 1995 in order to pursue cycling and become an antiques dealer of, interestingly enough, Native American art — Taylor has strived to make sure that people don't forget about the black marks on America's past. His songs have referenced lynchings, murders and broken relationships, all subjects that are natural fits for the bluesy world he inhabits. That being said however, more upbeat tracks like "Sit Across Your Table" and "Jae Jae Waltz" (whose arrangement is reminiscent of "Oh My Darling, Clementine") suggest that there's always a place for respite.

"The album is a journey, and I'm not afraid to be dark," Taylor admits. "But you don't want it to be super dark all the time."

Along the way, Taylor has been nominated for more than a dozen Blues Music Awards and is a five-time winner of *DownBeat*'s Best Blues Album award. Not bad for a disillusioned musician who got back into the business by accident.

"It was kind of a fluke," Taylor says with a chuckle. "I was the manager of a bicycle chain, and our main sponsor went bankrupt. So sometime later he opened up a coffee house and I went to play at his coffee house one time. It went so well that I just never stopped."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

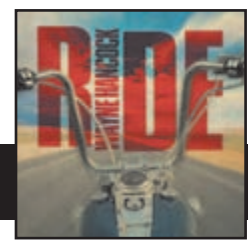
Otis Taylor

Friday, March 1, 8 p.m.

Daniels Hall, 71 E. Yale Ave., Denver

Tickets: $18/adv, $20/door ($2 discount for Swallow Hill members); swallowhillmusic.org, 303/777-1003.

SoundAdvice



Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds

Push the Sky Away

Bad Seed Ltd.

File next to: PJ Harvey, Low

After Nick Cave spent the latter half of the 2000s bashing and growling through his feral, dirty-old-man garage-rock side project, Grinderman — and following the resignation of Bad Seeds co-founder Mick Harvey — *Push the Sky Away* is an intriguing new direction in the Bad Seeds' 30-year career. The music is mostly hushed and spacious, filled with subtle keyboards, loops, violin and a children's choir. Eschewing the lucid narratives of his past, Cave's new lyrics are often hallucinatory, with cryptic digressions on astronomy, Wikipedia and Miley Cyrus. The aesthetic is dreamlike, weaving through scenes that are beautiful, hazy and menacing. Highlights include the ominous pulse of "We Real Cool," the shimmering, Fender Rhodes-driven "Mermaids," and the gorgeously expansive "Jubilee Street." *Push the Sky Away* may require multiple listens, but it's a bold work that will confound and impress. ***— Collin Estes***

Wayne Hancock

Ride

Bloodshot Records

File next to: Lyle Lovett, Bob Wills

Barely 30 seconds into *Ride*'s opening title track, Wayne Hancock simply stops singing. This is Wayne "The Train" Hancock we're talking about, one of the most garrulous figures from a cultural terrain (alt-country Texas) admired for rhetorical fortitude. In the vacuum left by his uncharacteristic silence, the guitars assume control, taking things deep into Chuck Berry and Hank Williams territory — country blues filtered through the strictures of "Johnny B. Goode" and "Lovesick Blues." Hancock's homespun warble returns, but only after two full minutes of intertwined soloing. *Ride*'s format is thus set, as Hancock continues to spin tales of ex-girlfriends and the open highway, his voice one element among many. The guitarists (plus, on one track, a muted trumpeter) share the headlights, plucking and strumming tight variations on the barebones melodies. *Ride* is so old-school it feels downright groundbreaking. ***— Marc Weidenbaum***

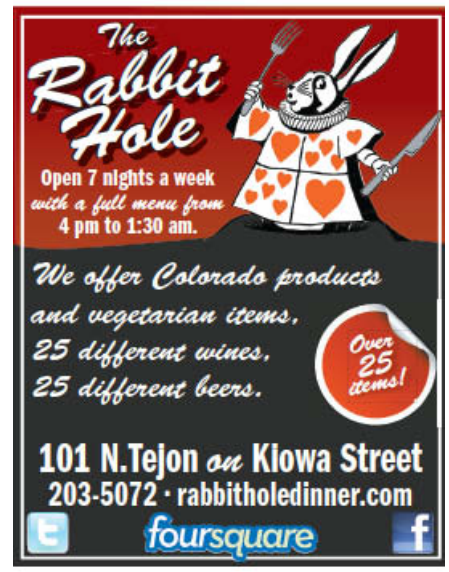
Various Artists

Absolutely Cuckoo: Minnesota Covers the 69 Love Songs

Noisome Misdeeds

File next to: Magnetic Fields, Broadway show tunes

Stephin Merritt and Magnetic Fields launched the three-disc *69 Love Songs* on an unsuspecting world in 1999, sparking paeans from fans that it was the best release of the decade (or century). Now Matt Latterell has assembled 69 Minnesota musicians to cover the entire album. What's surprising is how good the vast majority of it is. A few get lost in electronic gauze or sloppy-drunk nonsense, but Merritt himself had a few clunkers. Covers by artists like Bethany Larson ("Come Back From San Francisco") and Savannah Smith ("Love Is Like a Bottle of Gin") make you ache to hear more, which is precisely the point. The MP3s are being given away online at 69ls.mn (though a physical release is being discussed) in the hopes that this will spur more interest in the fine Minnesota bands represented in this collection. ***— Loring Wirbel***



REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

So here are a few really good reasons to go out on a winter's evening, specifically this coming Friday. That's when not one but *three* very different local bands will be making their debuts.

Tango Red Tapestry's Brian Eastin and his new band the War Parts will play their debut gig at the Black Sheep this Friday.

Let's begin with the **War Parts.** After relocating to Denver with **Tango Red Tapestry**, frontman **Brian Eastin** is back in his native Colorado Springs with a new band that'll be playing its first show Friday at the Black Sheep. In addition to Eastin, War Parts features guitarist **Shane Cahn** and drummer **Reggie Thompson**, both from the band **Foster**; bassist **Clayton Hull-Crew** from **Nobody's Home**; and keyboardist-about-town **Andy Rusk**. All five musicians also contribute vocals.

So how will the new band's sound differ from Tango Red Tapestry's?

"Well, it's a lot more collaborative and more musical, I guess," says Eastin. "You can't really change my voice or guitar-playing, so that part is very similar. But overall we've got a more focused sound. More accessible, I guess."

The War Parts will be sharing Friday's Black Sheep bill with **Autumn Creatures** and Utah's indie-pop road warriors **Desert Noises**, who were interviewed in these pages back in August.

Also on Friday, you can head downtown to hear **Inaiah Lujan**'s new **Dog Days** side-project at **Modbo**. The band takes its name from the title of Lujan's heavily **George Harrison**-influenced solo recordings, which you can check out on his ReverbNation page. Basically Dog Days is the **Haunted Windchimes** frontman backed by members of **Briffaut**, who will also be performing their own set, as will **Chela Lujan.**

Between sets, you'll have an opportunity to stroke your chin and demonstrate your command of art-school jargon while perusing installations by **Logan Bartlett** and **Monique Viger**, as well as new works by **Cole Bennett** and **Shannon Dunn** at the **S.P.Q.R.** gallery next door. You can also slip around the corner to grab a falafel at one of three late-night pita joints.

'You can't really change my voice or guitar-playing, so that part is very similar.'

Our third and final debut is that of **Justus League**, who will be bringing blues-rock originals and covers to **Stargazers** this Friday. While **Austin Johnson, Matt Taylor, Dean Woodward** and **Sean Pyrtle** performed together under that name at **Meadow Muffins** a few weeks back, this will be their first show with multiple **Indy Music Award** winner **Jake Loggins** onboard. (By the way, you can also catch the monthly **"Jam with Jake Loggins"** at Stargazers this Thursday.)

Also this weekend, the **Silver Tongue Devil Saloon** — which went dark right before Christmas — is back in business, although it's been rechristened as the **Blue Moose Tavern** by new proprietress **Karla Penner**. While the scenic Ute Pass institution held its soft opening for drinkers and diners two weeks ago, the full-on opening celebration takes place Saturday, with singer-songwriter par excellence **Chauncy Crandall** breaking in the resurrected venue's stage.

And last but possibly not least, it's time for our …

Stupid Letter of the Month: "I walked into the Yukon Tavern the other day for an after-work beer, and what do my ears hear? Hip-hop. The sign on the building says Rock & Roll Tavern. I instantly damn myself for once again I have been taken in by false advertisements. I think, feel, know! That this is an insult to all Rockers and I ask for a boycott from all who feel the same. — **Concerned Rocker**

Dear Concerned Rocker: Relax your mind, let your conscience be free, and get down to the sounds of your local emcee.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27, THROUGH TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Wednesday 02/27

Black Sheep, *Dark Time Sunshine, Void Pedal, Moodie Black, Bullhead*ded, Mad Trees (metal)*, 8 p.m., $7-$10.
Club Q, *Open Mic Night,* 10 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range Barbeque, *Grass It Up (bluegrass),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Zodiac, *80's Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 02/28

Adam's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band,* 9 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Doug and Rob Acoustic Favorites (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Another Door (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Hand Drum/Percussion Circle (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $2 donation.
Motif, *Tricia Parish (acoustic),* 7:15 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Ron Perry (dance),* 9:30 p.m.
Stargazers, *Jake Loggins Blues Jam (blues),* 7 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson with a "K" (dance),* 8 p.m.

Friday 03/01

Adam's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic),* 9 a.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Big Daddy Love (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $6-$10.
Benny's, *Brickyard (blues),* 9 p.m.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *George Duncan (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Fratelli, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 8:30 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *DJ Rob G (dance),* 9 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *John Byers (country),* 9:30 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Swallowtail World Music (world),* 6:30 p.m.
Marmalade at Smokebrush, *Chauncy Crandall & the Rocket Flies (blues),* 5 p.m.
Motif, *Steve Draper, Colin Truesdell, Stefan Flores (jazz),* 7:45 p.m., $10 minimum.
O'Furry's, *D Day Invasion (blues),* 9 p.m.
Oscar's, *Out to Dry, Robby Red Locks & The Reggae Time Machine (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Polito's Beer Barrel, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 8 p.m.
Rawkus, *DJ mLe, Papa Skunk (dance), 8 p.m.,* $5 underage cover till 11 p.m.
Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Less Than Zero (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Stargazers, *Justus League (blues),* 8 p.m., $5.
Sunshine Studios, *Sean Mark, Dant'e, MylesHy, (Unit)e (hip-hop),* 6 p.m., $5.
Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson with a "K" (dance),* 8 p.m.
Townhouse, *Lethal Lisa McCall (blues),* 8 p.m.

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Back East Bar & Grill, 9475 Briar Village Point, 264-6161
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
C'mon Inn, 711 Dale St., Fountain, 382-7562
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Fratelli Ristorante Italiano, 124 N. Nevada Ave., 575-9571
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave., 344-9593
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Lounge in the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721
Mansion, 20 N. Tejon St., 634-3522
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012
McGinty's Wood Oven Pub, 11115 W. U.S. Hwy. 24, Divide, 686-7703
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

Critically acclaimed Austin singer-songwriter Leo Rondeau is coming to Front Range Barbeque this Sunday.

BigGigs

Passion Pit, 1STBANK Center, Broomfield, March 1 • **Avatar**, Black Sheep, March 2 • **PANTyRAID**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 2 • **The Dirty Heads, Shiny Toy Guns**, Black Sheep, March 9 • **Adrian Legg**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 10 • **Salvador Santana**, Black Sheep, March 10 • **Swingin Utters**, Black Sheep, March 11 • **Otherwise**, Black Sheep, March 13 • **Curtis Salgado**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, March 15 • **Altan**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, March 16 • **Vagabond Opera**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 16 • **Clutch**, Black Sheep, March 18 • **Paper Bird**, Black Sheep, March 19 • **Tech N9ne**, Black Sheep, March 20; Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 22 • **Peelander-Z**, Black Sheep, March 21 • **Firefall**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 22 • **Imagine Dragons**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 23; Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, May 16 • **Candye Kane**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, March 23 • **P.O.D. Unplugged**, Rawkus, March 25 • **Erykah Badu**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 30 • **Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band, Joe Walsh**, Pepsi Center, Denver, April 2 • **Alt-J**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, April 3 • **The Elders**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 6 • **Bad Religion**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 10 • **The Doobie Brothers**, Pikes Peak Center, April 10 • **Moses Jones**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 10 • **Chris Cagle**, Cowboys, April 11 • **Bullet For My Valentine**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 12 • **Jimmy Thackery & the Drivers**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 12 • **Big Bill Morganfield**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 13 • **Peter Yarrow**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, April 13 • **Colin Hay**, Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Palmer Lake, April 20 • **The Motet, Ozomatli**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 20 • **Whiskey Fingers**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, May 3 • **Chris Duarte Group**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 4 • **Paramore**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 7 • **Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley**, Comfort Dental Amphitheatre, Englewood, May 18 • **Buddy Whittington with the Atomic Fireballs**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 31 • **Fleetwood Mac**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 1 • **Gina Sicilia**, Venue 515, Manitou Springs, June 1 • **Taylor Swift**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 2 • **The xx**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, June 3 • **Sting**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 5 • **Celtic Woman**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 9 • **Tim McGraw**, Comfort Dental Amphitheatre, Englewood, June 15 •

Triple Nickel, *The Blind Pets, Tom Hanks (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $3.
Union Station, *Big Chez Birthday Bash, with local rock and hip-hop artists (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Ute Inn, *Radio London (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.
VFW Post 6461, *3 of a Kind (country)*, 8:30 p.m.
Wyatt's, *Rawbert Beard (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.
Zodiac, *Sugar Hi-Five, with special guests (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 03/02

Back East, *Suga Bear & the Show Time Band (R&B)*, 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *Mike Nelson (blues)*, 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Avatar, Malakai, Another Shade of Hate (metal)*, 8 p.m., $10-$12.
Cleats, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
C'mon Inn, *Soapdish Dance Band (rock/pop)*, 8:45 p.m.
Cucuru, *The Flipsides (blues)*, 7 p.m.
Fratelli, *Brian Parton (Americana)*, 8:30 p.m.
Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz)*, 6 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *Velvet Truckstop (country)*, 9:30 p.m.
Lounge in the Village, *DJs Dave and Deb (dance)*, 8 p.m.
Mansion, *Drinks & Ink, with Corey Miller and DJ Ravidrums (dance)*, 11 p.m.
Motif, *Marcie Hureau and Gentle Rain (jazz)*, 7:45 p.m., $10 minimum.
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *The Lisa McCall Band (rock/pop)*, 7 p.m.
Riverside Bar and Grill, *Cari Dell Trio (blues)*, 9 p.m.
Sky Box Lounge, *The Reid Holmes Invitational "Live Music Jam" (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Less Than Zero (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson with a "K" (dance)*, 8 p.m.
Townhouse, *The Fright (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *Dan Tedesco, Floaty Raft (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $3.
Union Station, *OFL & Guests (metal)*, 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Roma Ransom Band (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Sunday 03/03

Front Range Barbeque, *Leo Rondeau (Americana)*, 5 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world)*, 3 p.m., *JV3 (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.
McGinty's, *Traditional Irish Session (world)*, 3 p.m.

Monday 03/04

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone*, 7 p.m.

Tuesday 03/05

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic)*, 6 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Battle of the Bands, with Vital Malice, Restore All Vengeance (metal)*, 5 p.m., $10.
Rawkus, *Sub.Mission Dubstep DJ Battle Series (dance)*, 8 p.m.
Townhouse, *Jam Night, with Tim Costello (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.
Zodiac, *Godhunter, Blighter, Down the Hatch (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
O'Furry's, 900 E. Fillmore St., 634-3106
Oscar's Tejon Street, 333 S. Tejon St., 471-8070
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098
Polito's Beer Barrel, 2113 E. Evans Ave., Pueblo, 719/564-9915
Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
Riverside Bar and Grill, 4021 Jerry Murphy Road, Pueblo, 719/543-2037
Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921
Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
VFW Post 6461, 753 S. Santa Fe Ave., Fountain, 330-8834
Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

VOTED BEST VENUE IN THE SPRINGS!
THE BLACK SHEEP
2106 E. PLATTE AVE. CO SPRINGS
ON SALE THIS WEEK!
THE PINES - MAR 23 (ON SALE NOW)
IN THIS MOMENT - MAR 25 (ON SALE NOW)
FEAR FACTORY - APR 14 (ON SALE FRI)
CHUNK, NO CAPTAIN CHUNK! - APR 30 (ON SALE NOW)
CAPITAL CITIES - MAY 21 (ON SALE FRI)
Wed, Feb. 27th - 8:00pm
DARK TIME SUNSHINE
VOID PEDAL, MOODIE BLACK, BULLHEAD*DED, MAD TREES
Fri, Mar. 1st - 8:00pm
DESERT NOISES
AUTUMN CREATURES, WAR PARTS
Sat, Mar. 2nd - 8:00pm
PRESENTED BY 94.3 KILO
AVATAR
MALAKAI, ANOTHER SHADE OF HATE, UNTIL CHAOS
Tue, Mar. 5th - 5:00pm
SUMERIAN RECORDS BATTLE OF THE BANDS
VITAL MALICE, RESTORE ALL VENGEANCE, AESTHETIC DELIRIUM, LAST WORDS OF THE APOCALYPSE, & MORE!
Thu, Mar. 7th - 8:00pm
THE YABADA BEEAATT SHOW 5
17 ENTS
EARMIC, GRITTY MUSICK, ETC & BIG CHEEZ, RYAN "DK" KOLLMAN, JMO, HATA PROOF, & MORE!
Fri, Mar. 8th - 8:00pm
CURRENT SWELL
WATER BEAR, MARK'S MIDNIGHT CARNIVAL SHOW
Sat, Mar. 9th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP AND INDEPENDENT RECORDS
TOUR ODYSSEY [illegible] DIRTY HEADS
SOLD OUT!
SHINY TOY GUNS
MIDI MATILDA, OH NO FIASCO
Sun, Mar. 10th - 8:00pm
SALVADOR SANTANA
CHARLIE MILO TRI AND FRIENDS FEAT. EARSIQ RADKEYS, TAPEDECK, WINTER IN JUNE, & MORE!
Mon, Mar. 11th - 7:00pm
THE SWINGIN UTTERS
WILD ROSES (FEAT MARC ORRELL OF DKM), DISGUISE THE SPY, SPATGASM
Wed, Mar. 13th - 7:00pm
OTHERWISE
GEMINI SYNDROME, GIRL ON FIRE, LOLA BLACK
Thu, Mar. 14th - 7:30pm
WHY THEY FIGHT
TAKE IT TO 88, CARAMEL CARMELA, AIM2MISS
UPCOMING EVENTS
MAR 15 - GET ALONG
MAR 16 - THE BEN MILLER BAND
MAR 18 - CLUTCH
MAR 19 - PAPER BIRD
MAR 20 - TECH N9NE
MAR 21 - PEELANDER-Z
MAR 23 - PAPER BIRD
MAR 25 - IN THIS MOMENT
MAR 27 - THE PINSTRIPES
MAR 28 - AIR DUBAI
APR 1 - ADRENALINE MOB
APR 2 - MINUS THE BEAR
APR 3 & 4 - AS I LAY DYING, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
APR 8 - RADICAL SOMETHING
APR 14 - FEAR FACTORY
APR 17 - FAMILY OF THE YEAR
APR 20 - VOODOO GLOW SKULLS
APR 30 - CHUNK, NO CAPTAIN CHUNK!
MAY 3 - BANDYNAMITE
ALL SHOWS ALL AGES UNLESS SPECIFIED
Door times listed. Advance tickets available on show nights, by phone at 1-866-468-7621 or buy online at:
www.BlackSheepRocks.com
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MOZART & PROKOFIEV
March 9 at 8:00 pm • March 10 at 2:30 pm
Josep Caballé-Domenech conductor
Michael Hanson violin
Strauss Don Juan
Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4
Prokofiev Symphony No. 5
El Pomar Foundation
Masterworks
Tickets from $19 ($12 students)
csphilharmonic.org • 719-520-SHOW • TicketsWest outlets
Pikes Peak Center 190 South Cascade Avenue
Concert previews begin one hour before performances
Sponsored by
The estate of Cynthia P. Estes
Colorado creative industries
This activity is supported by funding from the Colorado Creative Industries Division, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.
COLORADO SPRINGS PHILHARMONIC

Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

Art on the Streets, a year-long exhibit of sculpture vetted by local art patrons Jim Raughton and Kathy Loo. The 12 pieces are done by artists from Colorado and around the country. Go online for a map. Through next summer. Downtown, downtown80903.com.

Big Picture Discussion Group, join others to talk about art and spirituality. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, tinyurl.com/cs6lo26.

PICK **ChitChat: Hitchcock and Literary Cocktails,** an evening of food and drink, hands-on learning and a whole lot of lively conversation with featured speakers Dr. George Butte of CC's English and Film departments and Frank Frey, bartender at Nosh and the Blue Star. Wed., Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m. $5-10. GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, galleryuccs.org.

Clay Art Classes, a variety of classes on topics like paperclay, raku, handbuilding and wheel throwing. Through May 1. Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org.

PICK **Downtown Skill Share,** an all-ages open art session featuring random experimentations and creations with Concrete Couch. An open-mic music jam follows. Thursdays, 4 p.m.; through May 30. Free. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, concretecouch.org.

Fab Lab and Recycling Center, weekly sessions to fix items or create new things with Concrete Couch. Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

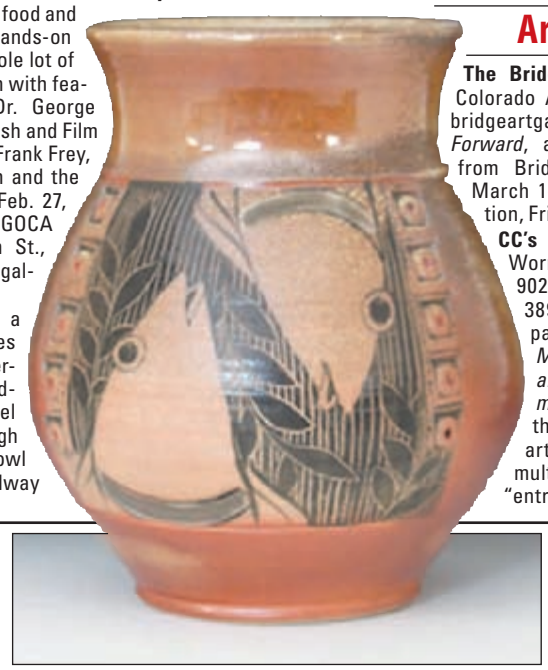
First Friday Art Walk — Pueblo, monthly art celebrations encompassing multiple galleries, a handful of coffee shops, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center and other businesses. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Downtown Pueblo, pueblopag.org.

First Friday Reception, a reception for *Ceramica: Contemporary Clay*, a group exhibit featuring artwork done in clay from locals like Mark Wong to Michigan artist Elaine Ng. Fri., March 1, 5-8 p.m. GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, galleryuccs.org.

Free First Friday with Chauncy Crandall and the Rocket Flies, a continuation of the photography exhibit *A Celebration of Black*, with live music and refreshments. Fri., March 1, 6-9 p.m. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, facebook.com.

"'Til the Sun Sets: Creativity Party to Benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society", get creative at this gathering to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Bring your own materials or instruments (musicians welcome); the BAC will provide mics, easels, tables and some media. Also included: art demonstrations and live music. Sat., March 2, 5:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, tinyurl.com/ay7ox3e.

ArtExhibits



PICK **Sangre de Cristo Arts Center,** 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Gene Diodato*, held in Sangre's Foyer galleries, a series of plein air paintings. Through April 20. *Klaus Anselm*, a series of works by this artist who worked as a doctor before turning to weaving. Through April 20. *Representing the West Exhibition and Sale*, a national juried exhibition and sale of traditional Western art. March 1 to April 6. Opening reception, Friday, March 1, 5-8 p.m. *Women Who Run With the Wood*, a exhibition of wood-fired ceramics created by Vicky Hansen, Tracy Hartman-Jensen and Deborah Hager (pictured). Through March 30.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 629-7055, thebridgeartgallery.com. *Spring Forward*, a collective exhibit from Bridge Gallery artists. March 1-30. Opening reception, Fri., March 1, 5-8 p.m.

CC's Coburn Gallery, Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6606, theideaspace.com. *Basim Magdy: How to Build an Invisible Monument*, a solo show by this Middle Eastern artist, who works in multiple media to alter "entrenched cultural views" and play with notions of irony and absurdity. Through March 8.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Families*, a multidisciplinary project featuring two exhibits, *A Family Affair: Selections from the Progressive Art Collection*, a multimedia show featuring numerous angles on the idea of family from contemporary and emerging artists, and *Mother: Photography by Carol S. Dass*, a solo show by this local photographer seeing her mother through new eyes. Through May 19.

The Commons Gallery, Depot Arts Building, 218 W. Colorado Ave. *Photography by Angela Crews*, coordinated by the Kreuser Gallery, a solo show of Crews' work. Crews has worked with the likes of Disney, American Airlines and the Chrysler Corporation. Opening reception, Fri., March 1, 5-8 p.m.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *2013 Congressional High School Art Competition*, a juried exhibit from high school students in the Fifth Congressional District, as part of a nation-wide program. Through March 15.

Dogtooth Coffee Company, 505 E. Columbia St., 632-0125, dogtoothcoffee.com. *Collages by Dave Armstrong*, a solo show by Armstrong which includes works from his series based on

the myth of Orpheus, a project now 25 years in the making. Through March 1. Closing reception, Fri., March 1, 7-9 p.m.

Gold Hill Mesa Community Center, 142 S. Raven Mine Drive. *Faces of the Fire*, a photo exhibit and multimedia gallery show documenting the Waldo Canyon Fire, from the perspective of the residents who lived through it. March 1 to Aug. 31.

Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 540-2038, medcafe-co.com. *The Odyssey*, a series of paintings depicting the healing process after an accident. Through March 16.

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Logan Bartlett and Monique Viger*, a dual show from these local artists. Logan works in a variety of media based on his early love of cartoons. Viger is a painter, who started her craft later in life and now shows prolifically. March 1-31. Opening reception, Fri., March 1, 5:30 p.m., featuring live music from Chela Lujan, Desirae Garcia and Briffaut

Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-3155, mcgallerypl.com. *Alabaster*, an exhibition of works by Dave Foncannon, alabaster sculptor with Pueblo's Steel City Art Works, with paintings by Diana LaMorris and photographs by Bill LaMorris. Through March 18.

Sabi, 330 N. Institute St., 471-4237, facebook.com. *The Alchemy of Questions*, a thought-provoking exhibition of mixed-media paintings and photographs by local artist and entrepreneur Joshua Kennard. Through March 8.

S.P.Q.R., 17 B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Cole Bennett and Shannon Dunn*, a dual show from Bennett, who makes his own paper and creates detailed, Japanese-woodcut-inspired pieces. Dunn, meanwhile, creates work that derives from her background in printmaking and "love for stylized, simplified drawings." March 1-31. Opening reception, Fri., March 1, 5:30 p.m., featuring live music from Chela Lujan, Desirae Garcia and Briffaut.

PICK **Kreuser Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Paintings by Kearston Corey*, also showing the neighboring Aha Gallery, photographs of Japan from Tommy Dykes. March 1-31. Opening reception, Friday, March 1, 5-8 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *Fourth Annual Visions of Light Photography Show*, a juried exhibition judged by a panel of local artists and photographer John Fielder, March 5-30. Opening reception, Fri., March 8, 5:30 p.m.

Auditions&Entries

Business of Art Center seeks entries for its juried photography exhibition *Colorado in Focus*. Work must be delivered ready to hang. Deadline for entries is April 14. $10 for first piece, $5 for each additional piece. It also seeks submissions for a *Wunderkind Alumni* exhibit to run in conjunction with the annual *Wunderkind* show. Submit digital images of works via e-mail by March 8. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Canyon Winds Band, a nonprofit concert band, seeks new members of all kinds and performance abilities. $50. 271-8666, dougdowney@centurylink.net.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op seeks a 3D artist or a potter to join the gallery. Even if you have entered and been denied before, please re-apply. Applications are available online and are due March 11 at 6 p.m. Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts seeks entries for its upcoming show, *The Life Abstract.* Abstract, nonfigurative, nonobjective or nonrepresentational works in a variety of media including 3D will be considered. Intake: March 21-22. It also seeks entries for its upcoming show, *Wily and Wonderful Things.* Works celebrating the aesthetics of outsider art and steampunk will be considered, including painting, sculpture and worn art. Intake: May 23-24. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com.

Improv Colorado is seeking new members. Contact the company via e-mail for a tryout. improvcolorado@gmail.com, improvcolorado.com.

Mountain Arts Festival seeks arts and crafts entries for its 28th occurrence. Deadline for entries is May 1. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 686-7469, themountainartists.com.

The Pikes Peak Arts Fest seeks visual artists interested in exhibiting and selling work at the next festival in America the Beautiful Park. Deadline for entries is March 8. pikespeakartsfest.com.

Pikes Peak Library District seeks photos of your favorite "third place" — a space away from home or work you feel comfortable and engaged in. Through March 31. ppld.org/21centurylibrary.

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church seeks a drummer to perform in its upcoming musical, *In Remembrance*. Two rehearsals per week in February and March; performances in early April. Call for details. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 578-5626.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center seeks employers willing to hire youth for summer jobs to participate in the Annual Governor's Summer Job Hunt Youth Job Fair March 7. Contact 667-3829 or bobgemignani@elpasoco.com to sign up. Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, #1107, 667-3700, ppwfc.org.

Springs Ensemble Theatre will hold auditions for its upcoming production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* Saturday, March 2 from 3-7 p.m. SET is seeking males for the roles of Speed, Murray, Roy and Vinnie. Call to set up an audition time. Springs Ensemble Theatre, 1903 E. Cache la Poudre St., 357-3080, springsensembletheatre.org.

Woodland Park Fine Arts & Crafts Fair seeks artists, authors, craftspeople and musicians to participate in the 2013 fair season. E-mail for application form, dates and rules. Ongoing. 687-3731, psirko@msn.com, woodlandparkfineartsandcraftsfair.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, Natalie@BlackCatBooks.com, thebac.org.

Cheyenne Mountain Poetry Group, a group for those interested in, or currently writing, poetry. First and third Friday of every month. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 337-5130.

Colorado Native Club, a gathering for native Coloradans over a pot luck dinner with a presentation on state history and culture. Fourth Thursday of every month, 5:45-7:30 p.m. Free, $10 per year to join. Inn at Garden Plaza, 2520 International Circle, 632-6806, innatgardenplaza.com.

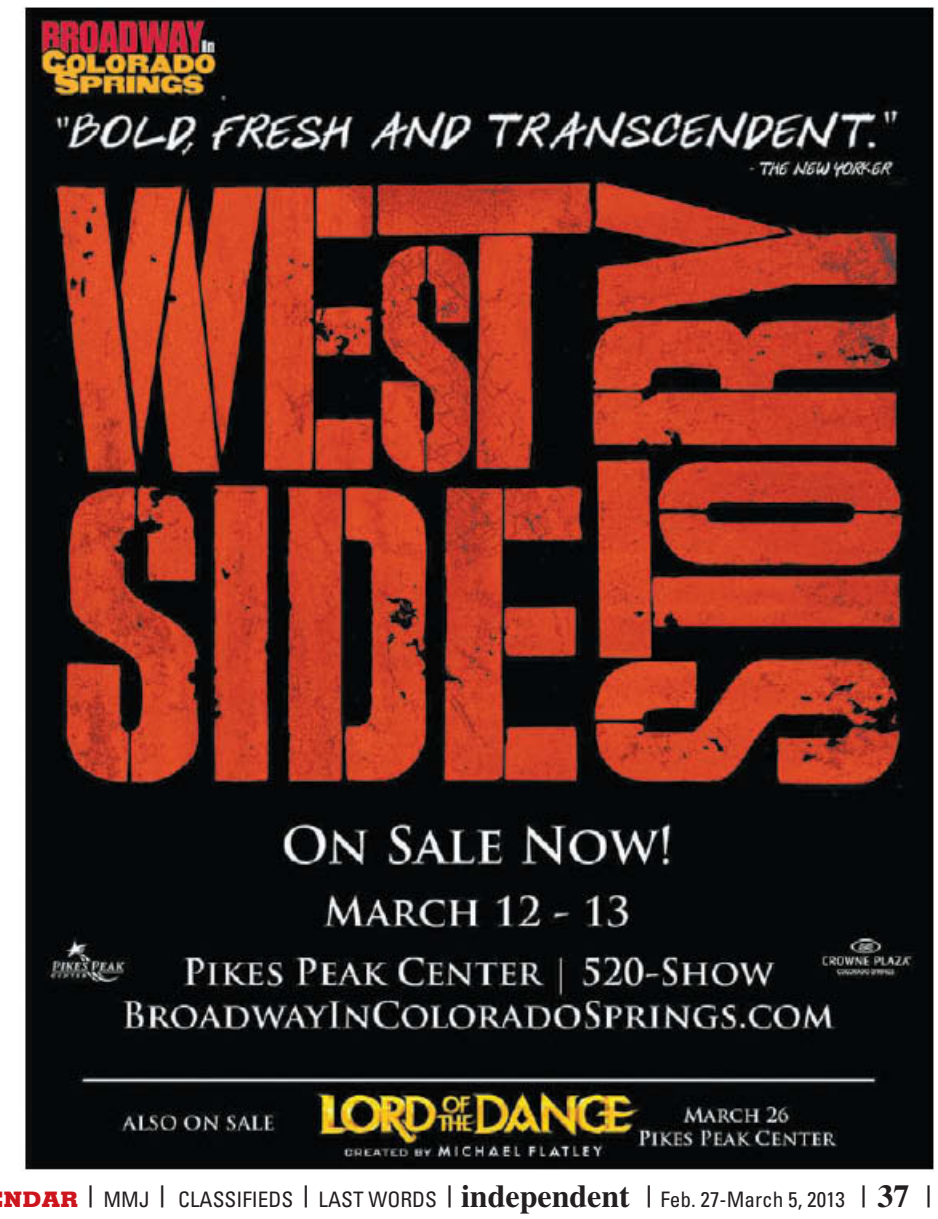
Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.

Colorado Vegetarian Group, open to anyone interested in a vegetarian or vegan dietary lifestyle. Visit the website or contact coloradospringsveg@yahoo.com for meetings and other details. vegetarian.meetup.com/534.

Debtors Anonymous, weekly 12-step meetings for those struggling with debt, overspending and/or underearning. First Lutheran Church, 1515 N. Cascade Ave., 641-2979, debtorsanonymous.org.

Drinking Liberally, a discussion and drink group open to the "99%, 47% and any empty chairs." Fourth Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 330-6993, livingliberally.org/drinking.

Ella Mae Bransom Association Meetings, gatherings to work for the improvement of the quality of health and life of local families and individuals affected by sickle cell and related diseases. First Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. Southeast YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive, 596-7308, ppymca.org/southeast-family-center.



PICK **First Friday Reception,** a chance to meet and greet the newest artists to join the gallery, including Susie Jernigan, Shelley Olivier and Charlotte Lee, with refreshments and live music by Jason Bennett. Friday, March 1, 5-8 p.m. Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., 634-5299, gallery-113.com.

Investment Club, a night of snacks, beverages and discussion of financial opportunities, led by a professional financial advisor. Enjoy two free meetings before joining. First Tuesday of every month, 6:15 p.m. $20. Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust, 1212 W. Colorado Ave., 447-9300, rmclt.org.

Knitwits & Hookers, a knitting and crochet group where all levels of experience are welcome; contact for meeting details as they change weekly. Mondays. Free. ravelry.com.

MMJ-Patient Meeting, an open gathering from Coloradans 4 Cannabis Patient Rights. Last Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Free. Lofty's, 287 E. Fountain Blvd., #100, 271-8430, c4cpr.org.

MS Support Groups, offering five support groups around the region for those living with MS and their caregivers. For locations and information call 633-4603. Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado, 1322 N. Academy Blvd., #119, 633-4603, msasoco.org.

National Organization of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Colorado Springs, a support group for families of persons with mental illness. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. NAMI Office, 510 E. Willamette Ave., 473-8477, namicoloradosprings.org.

Networking Groups, Pikes Peak Job Search Networking Group meets Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon. 50+ Job Seekers Group meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 636-0000, dhs.elpasoco.com.

No-Nuts Moms Group of Colorado Springs, a peanut- and tree-nut-free playgroup for all ages, who can participate in indoor and outdoor play dates. Contact the group for specific times and dates. Free. tinyurl.com/nonutsmoms.

Parent Education/Toddler Playgroup, a "positive parenting" playgroup for 2- to 3-year-olds. Call for location. Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; through March 8. 785-3714.

Parrotheads of Colorado Springs, a Jimmy Buffett appreciation group committed to supporting the local community through volunteerism and fundraising. E-mail for info on upcoming events and projects. parrotheadscos@gmail.com.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, an informal group of jugglers ranging in skill from beginners to pros. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

Pikes Peak New Horizons Band, a band organization for adults 40 and up who would like to continue to play musical instruments. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Nazarene Bible College, 1111 Academy Park Loop, 598-2373, ppiom.org.

Pikes Peak Over the Hill Gang, a club for people 50 and over who want to ski, bike, go to wine tastings, theater, monthly potlucks and other activities. Visit the website for more. ppothg.com.

Sno Jets Ski and Social Club, a club for ski enthusiasts. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Dublin House, 1850 Dominion Way, 265-8820, snojets.org.

Sons of Italy Pikes Peak, a monthly meeting of the service and advocacy organization for people of Italian descent. Held at VFW Post 101, 702 S. Tejon St. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. 481-8623.

WINGS, offering therapist-facilitated support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in which survivors are believed and accepted. A women's group is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. A men's and Loved Ones of Survivors' groups to start soon. 800/373-8671, wingsfound.org.

Comedy&Improv

The RiP, family-friendly comedy. March 1-2, 8 p.m. $12. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Tim Pulnik, Feb. 28 to March 2. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Concerts

Chamber Music Recital, featuring the New Horizons Band performing solo, duet and ensemble arrangements. Fri., March 1, 7:30 p.m. a performance from the New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs. Fri., March 1, 7:30 p.m. Free. First Evangelical Free Church, 820 N. 30th St., 634-7567.

Classical Brass of Denver, a performance from organist Frank Perko. Sun., March 3, 3 p.m. First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave., 633-8888, firstchristiancos.org.

Faculty Recital, a classical concert from world-renowned pianist Dr. Angelina Gadeliya with Karine Garibova, violin; Sergei Vassilev, clarinet and Jeff Watson, cello. Sun., March 3, 6-7:30 p.m. $10. Colorado Springs Conservatory, 415 S. Sahwatch St., 577-4556, eventbrite.com/event/5451276916/eorg.

Friends House Concerts, Seth Glier, Sun., March 24, 7 p.m. ($20), Antje Duvekot, Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. ($25), Peter Mulvey, Sun., June 16, 7 p.m. ($25). Payment should be checks made out to Friends House Concerts. house-concerts.org.

Music Jam, a jam for those with little or no musical experience. Fridays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Sacred Concert Series: Huntley Brown, Sun., March 3, 2:30 p.m. $5-$25. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

DanceParties&Classes

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

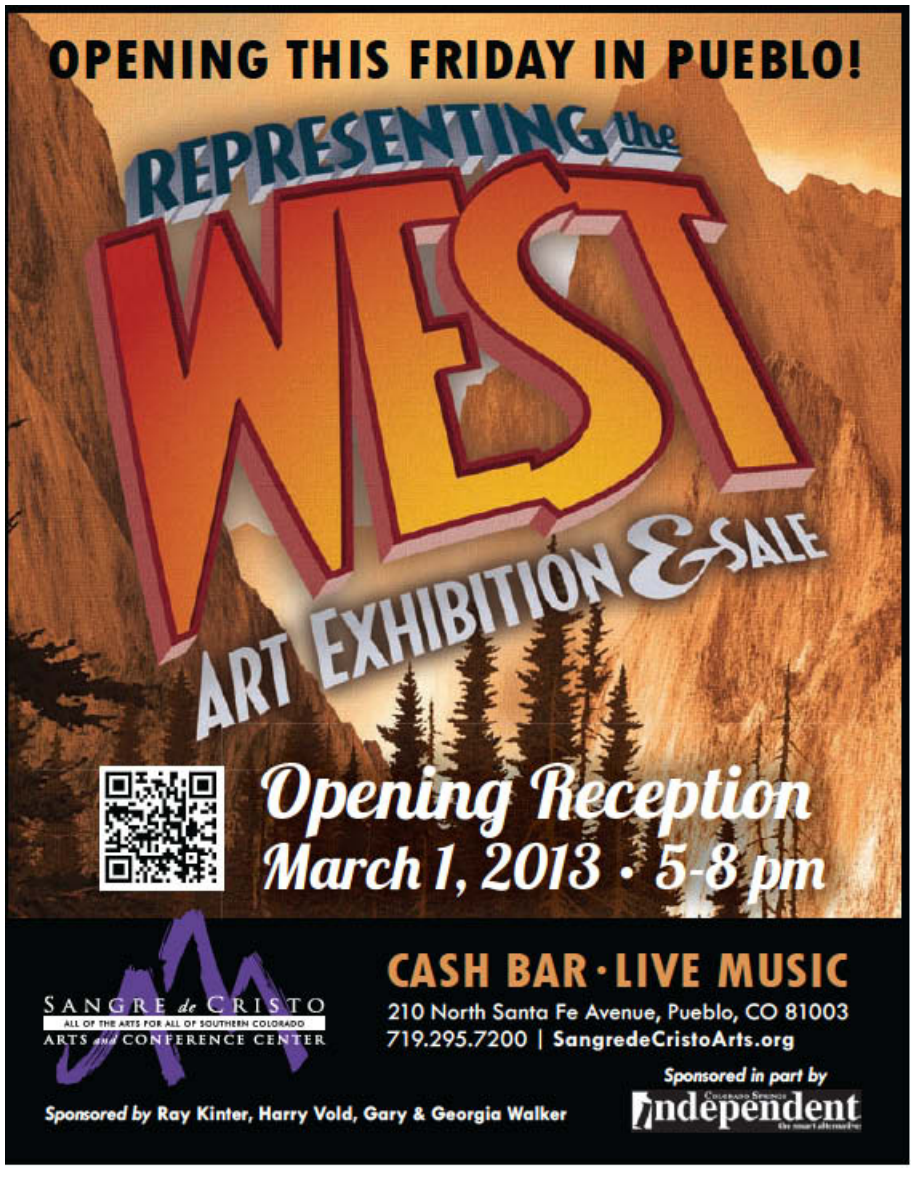
Scottish Country Dance, held on the lower level. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. $5, first class free. International Dance Club, 2422 Busch Ave., 310-1784, internationaldanceclub.org.

Senior +55 Dance, weekly dances with music from the '40s, '50s and '60s. Tuesdays, 6-10:30 p.m. $3 per person (or $5 for two). Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927, treaone.org.

Swing in the Springs, beginner and intermediate swing dance classes covering a variety of styles, followed by a free East Coast Swing class and a DJed dance. Casual dress, but no street shoes. Sundays, 7:30-10 p.m. $6. VFW Hall, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-4697, swinginthesprings.com.

Tango Lessons, offering lessons Tuesdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900, cucurugallerycafe.com.

Waltz Lessons, offering free and low-cost waltz lessons for patterned dances. Go online for a schedule. Call to sign up. 598-2885, 592-1418, broadmoorwaltzclub.com/default.html.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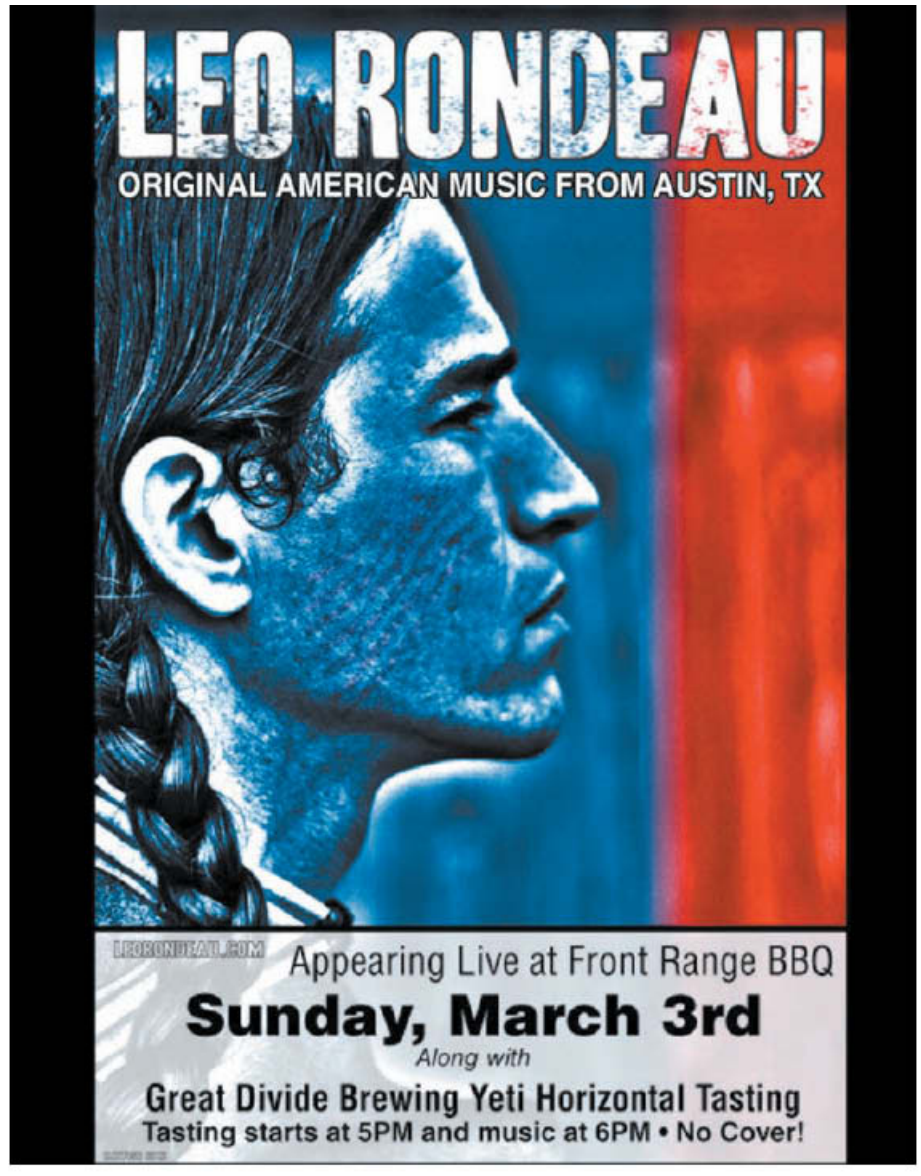
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Appearing Live at Front Range BBQ
Sunday, March 3rd
Along with
Great Divide Brewing Yeti Horizontal Tasting
Tasting starts at 5PM and music at 6PM • No Cover!

DancePerformances

Purple Haze: Shimmying Through the '60s, a bellydance show themed around the '60s, with performers like: Neisa Salima, Suddenly Shimmy, Vamp Bellydance, Baharat Sharqi and others. Sat., March 2, 8 p.m. $8. Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059, tinyurl.com/ab5vdot.

Soul Mechanics, a "public jam session" from the local break-dancing crew. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Ormao Dance Company, 10 S. Spruce St., 471-9759, ormaodance.org.

Film

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, a showcase of the best adventure filmmakers. Sat., March 2, 7 p.m. $15. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com.

Cinemaholics, weekly film screenings with free popcorn and drink specials. Go online for updates. Tuesdays, 9-11:30 p.m. Free. Shuga's, 702 S. Cascade Ave., 328-1412, shugasblog.com.

Losing Ground, a screening and discussion of this investigation into the past 60 years of Colorado census history, which shows that minority groups face considerable hardships from health care to pay to education. Thurs., Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., inewsnetwork.org.

Rising from Ashes, a screening hosted by the Independent Film Society of Colorado of this documentary about cycling legend Jock Boyer, who moved to Rwanda to help the country build a national cycling team. Peb Jackson, executive director of the film, will be in attendance. Wed., Feb. 27, 6 p.m. Free. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., risingfromashesthemovie.com.

Food&Drink

"Beyond Meatless Mondays," a class from vegan-lifestyle coach JL Fields held at a downtown location. Mon., March 4, 6 p.m. $15. jlgoesvegan.com.

Cheese and Wine Dinner, a six-course themed wine dinner featuring classic pairings. Thurs., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. $55. Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667, coloradoeats.com/margarita/home.html.

Chili Competition, a chili competition to benefit the Woodland Park Senior Center. Call 339-0954 for an entry form. Sat., March 2, 11 a.m. $10 to compete, $6 to attend. Woodland Park Senior Center, 312 N. Center St., Woodland Park, 687-3877, 339-0954.

Dinner with Our Chef in the Kitchen, a five-course dinner with wine prepared by Chef Larissa Warner. Reservations required. Thursdays, 7 p.m. $35 per person. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

FUNdamentals in Wine Series, an educational series on wine fundamentals with wine, instruction and paired snacks. Reservations required, and can be made through Women for WineSense's website. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 5:30 p.m. $35. Soirée Events & Celebrations, 1003 A&B S. Tejon St., 351-7191, womenforwinesense.org.

Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz, Mondays, 8 p.m. Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766, jackquinnspub.com. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566, tonysdowntownbar.com. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, mccabestavern.com.

Tuesday Night Karma Hour, a weekly happy hour with a twist: each week Bristol will donate $1 from each pint sold to a charity. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Bristol Brewing Company, 1647 S. Tejon St., 633-2555, bristolbrewing.com.

The Wines of France, this year's Wine Festival of Colorado Springs focuses on the country of France, with seminars, a grand tasting and wine market auction, and a gourmet dinner. Hosted by the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and held at various locations around town. Go online to sign up. March 7-9.

GetInvolved

African-American Youth Leadership Conference, a day of education, empowerment and enlightenment for African-American youth. Pre-registration required. Sat., March 2, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CC's El Pomar Sports Center, 44 W. Cache la Poudre St., aaylc-co.org.

Annual Provider Forum, a chance to learn more about local resources that offer care for seniors, as well as the committees that oversee senior support organization initiatives and policies. Hosted by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Regional Advisory Council. Held at the PPACG Area Agency on Aging offices, 14 S. Chestnut St. Thurs., Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m. ppacg.org.

J&P Website Orientation, a chance for current and prospective members to learn about new features of the Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission website, including the Justice Exchange Network, which allows members to help each other without needing cash in an environment of equity. RSVPs requested. Wed., Feb. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, 332 W. Bijou St., #102, 632-6189, exchange@ppjpc.org, ppjpc.org.

PICK **Nonprofit Day,** a day of networking and workshops for the not-for-profit, corporate and public sectors. Keynote speaker: Drew Dudley. Pre-registration recommended. Fri., March 1, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. $50-$100. Antlers Hilton, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 575-4341, info@cnecoloradosprings.org, cnecoloradosprings.org/events/nonprofit-day.

Pikes Peak United Way seeks volunteers to join its review committee, which helps decide which programs receive funding. 955-0762, ppuwvolunteercenter.org.

Health&Healing

"Awareness Through Movement," a series of six classes designed to "help you learn to move wisely and bring relaxation to your life." Fridays; through March 29. $15 per class. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201.

Energy Healing: An Experiential Workshop, a hands-on class that discusses and practices the various forms of energy healing. Last Thursday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. $10. Celebration Community Room, 2207 W. Colorado Ave., 465-3536, celebrationstore.com.

Free Depression Support Groups, offering 10 peer-led support groups weekly, hosted by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Colorado Springs. Call or go online for more information. 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

GLBQTA Yoga, exercise in a safe and empowering environment friendly toward beginners. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Donations welcome. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130, info@yogajuan.com.

Liberate Your Inner Warrior!, a yoga workshop focusing on the Warrior series of asanas, beginning with a modern translation of the ancient Warrior story and a discussion of how to apply its energy. Sat., March 2, 2-4 p.m. $25-35. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, facebook.com.

Manitou Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youth who are at-risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

Men's and Women's Grief Support Groups, open to anyone who has lost a loved one. For information on dates and times, call 573-4166. Odyssey Hospice, 5526 N. Academy Blvd., #108, 573-4166, odsyhealth.com/site.asp?id=12.

PTSD Peer-Led Support Group, a support group for the spouses or significant others of a veteran or current military person suffering with PTSD. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Veterans' Affairs Clinic, 25 N. Spruce St., #207, 685-1965.

PTSD Support Group, for soldiers experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, irritability, and/or hyper-vigilance. Meet with other soldiers who are experiencing the same symptoms. Facilitated by a licensed therapist. Confidential. Covered by Tricare. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Soldier Life Center, 1767 S. Eighth St., #100, 471-0800, soldierlifecenter.com.

Rockies Counseling Center Therapy, offering weekly support groups covering grief and loss, Love and Logic parenting and Dialectic Behavioral Therapy Skills Group. Call for more info and to register. University of the Rockies, 555 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 442-0606, rockies.edu.

PICK **Commonwheel Artists Co-op,** 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Live, Laugh, Love Our Art,* an exhibition of works from students at Manitou Springs Elementary School, inspired by everyone from O'Keeffe to Chagall to local artist Steve Wood. Feb. 28 to March 11. Public reception, Sunday, March 10, 2-4 p.m.

Yoga for Beginners, a donation-based class for beginners. Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. Sunrise Yoga Studio, 313 N. Tejon St., #1, 216-8367, vibranthealthclinic.com.

Yoga for People Living with HIV/AIDS, open to friends as well. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. free. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130.

Yoga for Special Needs, Tuesdays, noon to 1:30 p.m. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 375-1922, pkomarow@comcast.net.

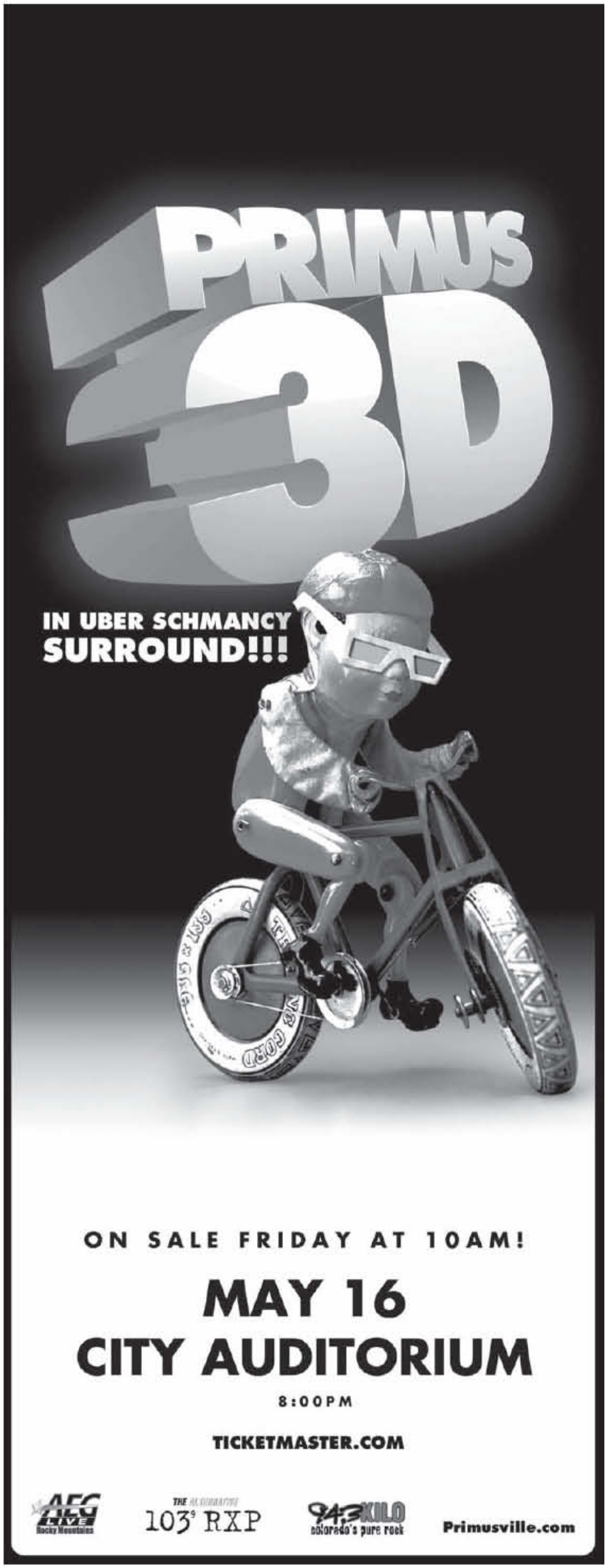
Yoga for Women in Recovery, a donation-based vinyasa flow class open to all women, with those in 12-step programs especially encouraged to attend. Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; through Dec. 26. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 510-5000, flowinghopeyoga.org.

Kids&Family

Little Wonders: Looking at Eyes, an interactive morning for 2- and 3-year-olds, with an adult, on the optical outdoors. Reservations required. Thurs., Feb. 28, 10 a.m. $3. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

School Information Night, a chance to get a closer look at the sixth-through-12th-grade, tuition-free school. Thurs., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. Thomas MacLaren School, 303 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 313-4488, maclarenschool.org.

Seventh Annual Healthy Pregnancy Fair, a special event for expecting families. Located in Burlington Coat Factory's Baby Depot, the event will feature information on all stages of parenthood, local resources, and door prizes. Sat., March 2, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Citadel Mall, 750 Citadel Drive East, #3114, 213-3740, birthnetwork.org/colorado.htm.



Lectures&Learning

PICK **Beekeeping School at Bear Creek,** choose one of these weekend courses from the Pikes Peak Beekeeping Association about starting your own colony. Sessions held March 16-17 and March 23-24. Sign up by March 4. $50. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Boating-Safety Class, an eight-hour class from the Pikes Peak Flotilla of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Contact the group for more details. Sat., March 2. 632-8129, dwendbcmac@aol.com.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, a class led by the Colorado Springs Police Department. Thurs., Feb. 28, 7 p.m. Free. CSPD Stetson Hills Area Command, 4110 Tutt Blvd., 444-3168, tinyurl.com/ay4ou2k.

PICK **Decoding Neanderthals,** a discussion of new evidence for self-expression and language among Neanderthals, presented by archaeologist Dr. Thomas Wynn. Tues., March 5, 7 p.m. Rawlings Library, 100 Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, 719/562-5600, puebloarchhistsoc.org.

PICK **Landscape Renovations,** a free class from Phelan Gardens sharing ideas for homeowners who want to update their landscaping and improve water efficiency. Saturday, March 2, 1-3 p.m. Phelan Gardens, 4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 574-8058, phelangardens.com.

"Drought-Resistant Turf Grasses," two classes from the Colorado State University Extension Office covering grasses that use little water and keep things green. One class will be held Tues., March 5 from 2-4 p.m. at the CSU Extension Office, 305 S. Union Blvd. and repeated Thurs., March 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the El Paso County Citizen's Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road. $10. 520-7688, elpasoco.colostate.edu/hort/hort.shtml.

PICK **"Exploring a Religious Agenda in Our Schools,"** a lecture with Richard Dawkins, Katherine Stewart, Eric Cernyar and Sean Faircloth. Wed., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. $5-$10. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu.

Frederick Douglass: "My Bondage and My Freedom," a portrayal of the great man by Charles Everett Pace. RSVP to info@csdiversityforum.org. Wed., Feb. 27, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Free. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com.

"Lowdown on Lawn Care," a class from the Colorado State University Extension Office covering lawn care for each month of spring and summer. Thurs., Feb. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. El Paso County Citizen's Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road. $10. 520-7688, elpasoco.colostate.edu/hort/hort.shtml.

Senior Resource Development Agency Classes, registering now for classes and sessions including line dancing, computer skills, painting, quilting and more. See the online calendar for current events. Senior Resource Development Agency, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/545-8900, srda.org.

"Sustainability: An Explorer's Tale," a lecture from author and explorer Jason Lewis. Wed., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Free. UCCS' Berger Hall, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., uccs.edu/sustain.

LiteraryEvents

Intimacy with Words, an open-mic poetry night offering writers a chance to perform multiple family-friendly pieces. Thurs., Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. Pikes Perk Coffee & Tea, 5965 N. Academy Blvd., 522-1432, facebook.com/intimacywithwords.

The Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project, in conjunction with the Fountain Valley School, seeks original poems from area high-school students for a poetry contest. Deadline for entries is March 1. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 337-0004, dreynolds@fvs.edu, fvs.edu.

Visiting Writers Series: Jim Moore, a reading from this award-winning poet, who penned *Invisible Strings*. Thurs., Feb. 28, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Gates Common Room, 1025 N. Cascade Ave, coloradocollege.edu.

Word Wednesdays, an open mic session for poets, comedians, actors, singers and other performers to share their work. Search the event on Facebook for more. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 313-0683.

Museums&Attractions

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars With NASA*, an exhibit exploring the events leading up to the 1969 moon landing and the role Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts characters played in the Apollo 10 launch and the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program. Schulz was also once a Springs resident, which will be another part of the show. Through April 20. *Windows into History*, a highlights tour of some of the curators' favorite stories and artifacts. Reservations recommended. Saturdays, noon to 12:30 p.m.

Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com. Lunch & a Look at the Garden, a lecture series focusing on the life and times of the Garden, from history to nature to adventure tours, with an opportunity to continue the discussion over lunch at the café. Reservations recommended. Tuesdays, March 5-26, 11:30 a.m.

The Money Museum, 818 N. Cascade Ave., 632-2646, money.org. *1913 Liberty Head Nickel Exhibition*, a chance to see one of the five famed coins — the last one to sell went for $3.7 million — until it leaves for a national tour in April.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 Northgate Blvd., 488-0880, wmmi.org. *Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Portrait Gallery*, a special exhibit in honor of National Women's History Month highlighting the heroines of Colorado history. March 1-31. $4-$8.

Spirituality

Sacramental Alchemy: The Philosopher's Stone, a presentation by Father Ian Carman on the ancient idea of the philosopher's stone and how it relates to modern spirituality. Wed., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Liberal Catholic Church Center of Colorado Springs, 2720 E. Las Vegas St., #115, 387-0308, stbonaventurelcc.org.

Spirit of a Siberian Shamana, a ceremony following ancient Slavic traditions, featuring the voice, drums and movement of Ladamira, a healer from Altai north of Mongolia. Sun., March 3, 7-9:30 p.m. $30. Celebration Conscious Living Store, 2209 W. Colorado Ave., 629-8055, sacredearthfound.org/events.shtml.

Spiritual Guide, offering low-cost sessions to help participants "explore and deepen your spirituality, inner peace and well-being." Call 719/388-6490 to sign up.

Spirituality Group, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitoubooks.com.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6-8 a.m. (winter). CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation, join for Tibetan Buddhist meditation and teaching on offerings practice with Venerable Sangpo. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Free, or by donation. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 447-9880, tsling.org.

SpecialEvents

Celebrate Susan Edmondson, a thank you to the departing director of the Bee Vradenburg Foundation. Fri., March 1, 5 p.m. Free. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., rmpbs.org/timgillcenter.

City Council Candidate Environmental Forum, a chance to learn more about the various candidates from the Trails and Open Space Coalition. Mon., March 4, 6 p.m. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 471-0910, stargazerstheatre.com.

City Council Forum — Live and Online, a forum with candidates from all districts, with questions taken via Facebook and Twitter. The forum will be aired on KOAA Channel 5 (cable channel 9). Tues., March 5, 5 p.m. Free. The Mining Exchange, A Wyndham Grand Hotel, 8 S. Nevada Ave., 323-2000, tinyurl.com/b49wneu.

Empty Bowls, a fundraiser for the Colorado College Community Kitchen, with handmade bowls to keep, all-you-can-eat soup and live entertainment. Tickets, available at the Worner Desk, will be grouped into half-hour time slots to accommodate guests. Mon., March 4, 6 p.m. $10. CC's Bemis Hall, 920 N. Nevada Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Evening in Athens, an evening of Greek food, spirits, dancing and more. Sat., March 2, 6 p.m. $25. Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org.

Guns 'n Hoses Game, a game between members of the police and fire departments, sponsored by the Colorado Springs Sled Hockey Association. Sat., March 2, 2:15 p.m. $10. Sertich Ice Center, 1705 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 385-5983, ticketswest.com.

Viva Las Carson, an 18-and-up night of blackjack, craps, poker, live and silent auctions, entertainment and more. "Vegas dress" encouraged. Sat., March 2, 6:30 p.m. $15-$20. Fort Carson Special Events Center, Building 1829, Specker Ave., 284-0428.

Sports&Recreation

PICK **2013 Rocky Mountain Regional Sport Stacking Championships,** a championship for first place in state, national and world records, with interactive fan activities. Sat., March 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. $5. Olympic Training Center, 1 Olympic Plaza, 866-4618, theWSSA.com/rmregionals.

Cancer Survivor Fitness Program, a basic 8-week strength and conditioning course. Dates/times flexible; call for more information. Phenom 1 Fitness, 1360 N. Academy Blvd., 330-4331, Lift4Life.org.

C'mon Run, free weekly 5K runs (or walks) with a free drink for each run and more freebies for the more runs you complete. Thursdays, 5 p.m. C'mon Inn, 711 Dale St., Fountain, 382-7562, cmoninnfountain.com.

Colorado Springs Cruisers, easy, weekly rides that leave Lofty's by 10 and hit downtown spots like Zodiac, Triple Nickel Tavern, V Bar and others for a leisurely, 21-and-up bike ride. Thursdays, 9 p.m. Lofty's, 287 E. Fountain Blvd., #100, 520-0024, facebook.com/coscruisers.

Coquette's Incline Club, a Saturday morning workout in rain, snow or shine; also enjoy socializing, coffee and food. Ten climbs earns a free T-shirt. Saturdays, 8 a.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com.

First & Main Run Club, weekly 3K and 5K runs with monthly prizes for club members. Held in the field behind Rock Bottom. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Rock Bottom, 3316 Cinema Point Drive, 550-3586, facebook.com/rbrunclub.

The Joy Ride, a weekly bicycle ride that begins at the tavern, travels three to six miles along a downtown route and ends up back at McCabe's for beer specials. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, upadowna.com.

Muldooniacs Running Club, weekly runs along the Homestead Trail, with a free drink after every run for of-age participants. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. José Muldoon's - Carefree Circle, 5710 S. Carefree Circle, 574-5673, josemuldoons.com.

Salsa Brava Nacho Ordinary Run Club, a 5K run through the neighborhood with drink specials and menu items just for club members. Freebies include a free T-shirt after 5 runs, a free appetizer after 10 runs and a free entree after 20 runs. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Briar Village, 9420 Briar Village Point, 955-6650. Also held Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Village Center, 802 Village Center Drive, 266-9244, salsabravaonline.com.

SoCo Velo Annual Kick-Off Meeting, an event for folks interested in joining one of Southern Colorado's largest cycling clubs, including a Q&A session, info about the club's race team, and Fit Kit and gear demos. Fri., March 1, 6-8 p.m. Bicycle Village, 2450 Montebello Square Drive, 265-9346, bicyclevillage.com.

SouthSide Johnny's Running Club, a running club with the added benefit of CrossFit, or "workouts comprised of constantly varied functional movements (like pushing, pulling, squatting, lifting, running) executed at high intensity." Wednesdays, 6 p.m. SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487, tinyurl.com/ssjrunning.

University Village Colorado Running Club, a club where you can run, jog or walk on one on-site loop of a single mile, or two others running north or south on the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail for four or six miles round-trip, respectively. Meet by Smashburger to check in. Mondays, 5:15 p.m. Free. University Village Colorado, 5230 N. Nevada Ave., 632-5000, uvcrunningclub.com.

Stage

Die Fledermaus, a production by Opera Theatre of the Rockies of Strauss' tale of pranks, glamorous parties and mistaken identities. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., March 3, 3 p.m. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 570-1950, operatheatreoftherockies.org.

Everyman on the Bus, a re-staging of the classic English morality play on a 70-minute bus ride through downtown, presented by TheatreWorks. Reservations strongly recommended. Through March 17. $15-$45. The Mining Exchange, A Wyndham Grand Hotel, 8 S. Nevada Ave., 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

Flowers for Algernon, a performance of the stage adaptation of Daniel Keyes' book. March 1-2, 7 p.m. $6. Mitchell High School, 1205 Potter Drive, mitchelldrama.com.

The Hans Christian Andersen Storybook, a "tribute" to Andersen done with marionettes, where-in "the Ugly Duckling voices objections to his author." Through March 17. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

PICK **Cottonwood on Tejon,** 214½ N. Tejon St., 313-9894, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com/tejon. Jacqueline Pearson, an exhibition of paintings that celebrate the everyday and the overlooked in vibrant color. March 1-31. Opening reception Friday, Mar. 1, 5-8 p.m.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, a production of the classic Bible-meets-Broadway musical from the Sunrise Players. Thurs., Feb. 28, 7 p.m., Fri., March 1, 7 p.m., Sat., March 2, 7 p.m. and Sun., March 3, 3 p.m. $5-$10. Sunrise United Methodist Church, 2655 Briargate Blvd., sunriseplayers.com.

The Vagina Monologues, a staged reading by CSU-Pueblo students, staff and faculty of the iconic, entertaining and wise play by Eve Ensler, as part of the university's fifth annual V-Day Campaign to stop violence against women. Wed., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. $3-5. CSU-Pueblo's Hoag Hall, 2200 Bonaforte Blvd., Pueblo, 549-2810.

Unbeweavable, a performance of several kid-friendly Greek myths from Denver's Buntport Theater Co. Sat., March 2, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sun., March 3, 1 and 3 p.m. $10.50. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

AFS-USA is looking for host families or students who wish to be part of foreign exchange programs. 800/AFS-INFO, afs.org.

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ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is seeking local families to host ASSE students. All students are between 15-18 years old and have passed a series of academic and character requirements. 800/733-2773.

Big Brothers Big Sisters - Pikes Peak seeks volunteer mentors to join the organization and provide a healthy friendship with a child. Those interested should call 633-2443 or e-mail stephaniep@biglittlecolorado.org.

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region seeks volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect. Training provided. CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, 701 S. Cascade Ave., 447-9898, casappr.org.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance seeks an experienced grant writer for this local nonprofit serving individuals and families affected by mood disorders. Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 2132 E. Bijou St., #112, 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

Educational Resource Development Trust is seeking families to host foreign exchange students for summer and school year programs. All students are proficient in English. 800/321-3738, erdtshare.org.

Engineers Without Borders seeks volunteers to help with technical work and fundraising for its water project in Bolivia. E-mail or go online for more information. peisele@comcast.net, ewbcos.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers, massage therapy volunteers (must be licensed), healing touch volunteers (must be certified). Training provided. Please call 265-1109 for more.

First Visitor at Peak Vista seeks volunteers for this program, which helps provide free home support to families with children from birth to age 3. 632-5700.

Fountain Creek Nature Center seeks teens 14 and up to volunteer as aides for Spring Break and Summer Nature Camps and special events. Participate in games, crafts and activities with small children; help with set-up and clean-up. Call or e-mail for application. Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, 520-6745, nancybernard@elpasoco.com, elpasocountyparks.com.

Girls on the Run seeks adults interested in coaching girls grades 3-8 in training for a 5K beginning early March. Visit website for application. 331-1011, girlsontherunrockies.org.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing talents as musicians, artists, pet therapists or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Pacific Intercultural Exchange is seeking host families in El Paso County for English-speaking exchange students ages 15-18. P.I.E. works to match students with families who have similar interests and lifestyles. To learn more, call 866/546-1402.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer service skills to help seniors improve their independence and quality of life by working in the Senior Information and Assistance Center (SIAC). Time commitment: 4-7 hours per week. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking volunteers in various capacities, especially for help on the weekends, such as working in prescription animal therapy, courier duties, vigil volunteers (who sit with dying patients) and Helping Hands volunteers who perform various chores after a patient dies. Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 2550 Tenderfoot Hill St., 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

(Pikes) Peak Pet Pantry is seeking donations of pet food and volunteers to help pick up and distribute food, talking to business sponsors and contacting local veterinary offices. 217-9528, pikespeakpetpantry.org.

Project Angel Heart needs volunteers to help deliver free, nutritious meals to those living with life-threatening illnesses. Apply online for more information. projectangelheart.org.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute seeks volunteers age 16-plus for several trail restoration projects around the Pikes Peak Region. 471-7736, rmfi@rmfi.org, rmfi.org.

The Secure the Call Foundation is seeking donations of old cell phones to reprogram for direct 911 calls for free distribution to senior centers, domestic violence shelters and other agencies. 888/883-6628, securethecall.org.

Spirit of America Response (SOAR) seeks volunteers to help with office duties as well as other programs offered by the organization. Call or go online for more information. 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

STS Foundation seeks host families for international students spending a year in America. 800/522-4678, stsfoundation.org.

World Heritage seeks host families for this high school student exchange program. Students hail from Europe, Asia and the Americas. 800/888-9040, whhosts.com.

YFU-USA is seeking families to host exchange students for the upcoming school year. 866/493-8872, yfu-usa.org.

PICK **Old Colorado City Historic Center,** 1 S. 24th St., 636-1225, occhs.org. "The Bock Family Legacy Collection," an open house highlighting new additions to the collection from the estate of the last private owners of Red Rock Canyon. Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OutofTown

art exhibits

CU Art Museum, 318 UCB, VAC, 1085 18th St., Boulder, 303/492-8300, cuartmuseum.colorado.edu. *From Cherry Blossoms to Snow Gardens*, an exhibition of "the floating world of Japanese prints." Through March 8.

Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, 720/865-5000, denverartmuseum.org. *Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico: Architecture, Katsinam, and the Land*, a collection of 53 O'Keeffe works, including 15 rare items, depicting New Mexico and the Latino and Native American cultures the artist observed there. Through April 28.

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Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Convicted bank robber Kenneth Conley managed to escape from Chicago's Metropolitan Correctional Center but was caught 17 days later living at an apartment building in Palos Hills, Ill., that's located, according to reports, "just steps from Palos Hills police headquarters." (NBC News)

After police arrested Aleasha Haines in Peoria, Ariz., she complained of back pain and nausea and was taken to the hospital, where she asked to use the restroom. Five minutes later, the police report said, "a large crashing noise was heard," and the officer guarding Haines ordered her to unlock the door. "The ceiling tiles above the toilet had been pulled down and broken," the report stated. "Aleasha exited the bathroom and was covered with a white chalk substance consistent with the ceiling tile material." Police said the sink also broke under Haines' weight, as did the steel support beams holding the ceiling in place, "showing force had been used to pull the ceiling down." Damage from Haines' escape attempt was estimated at $1,500. (Phoenix's *The Arizona Republic*)

Eco-unfriendly

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell proposed a $3.1 billion transportation plan that would eliminate the state's gas tax but impose a $100 fee on hybrid and electric vehicles. "It's meant to compensate for the federal gas tax that those vehicles do not pay," McDonnell explained. (Washington's WTOP-FM)

Fruits of research

It's healthier to pass gas when flying than hold it in, according to a team of British and Danish gastroenterologists. Their report, "Flatulence on Airplanes: Just Let It Go," published in the *New Zealand Medical Journal*, explains that restraining gas could lead to "significant drawbacks," including discomfort, pain, bloating, indigestion, stress and heartburn. "Obviously," the report acknowledges, "proximity to other passengers may cause conflict and stigmatization of the flatulating individual." (QMI Agency)

Carnivore's revenge

Leafy green vegetables cause the most food-borne illnesses in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Most of the contaminants are noroviruses deposited by food handlers. According to the CDC study, plants cause 51 percent of the 9.6 million cases of food-borne illnesses reported each year, with leafy greens contributing 23 percent of the total. Meat and poultry combined for 22 percent of illnesses, and dairy products caused 17 percent. (*Popular Science*)

Happy Father's Day

The Kansas Department of Children and Families ordered William Marotta, 46, to pay child support because he gave sperm in a plastic cup to a lesbian couple who advertised on Craigslist seeking a donor. The couple later separated, and Jennifer Schreiner, who conceived the child, fell on hard times and eventually received more than $6,000 in state benefits. Even though Marotta signed an agreement giving up parental rights and absolving him of financial responsibility, the state insisted the agreement isn't valid because Schreiner didn't use a licensed physician to perform the artificial insemination. (Topeka's *The Capital-Journal*)

Drinking-class heroes

To cut its fuel costs, the Alaskan Brewing Co. installed a $1.8 million boiler system that turns waste grain accumulated during the brewing process into steam that powers the Juneau-based brewery's operations. Brandon Smith, the company's brewing operations and engineering manager, estimated that the spent-grain system will offset the brewery's yearly energy costs by 70 percent. (Fox News)

Hare-raising tales

Rabbits have been plaguing cars parked at Denver International Airport. "They like to chew on the insulator portion of the ignition cables," Wiley Farris of Arapahoe Autotek repair shop explained. To discourage the rabbits, U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife agents remove about 100 a month, while airport parking companies are installing better fences and building perches for predator hawks and eagles. Noting that damage to cars "can run from the hundreds into the thousands" of dollars, Farris said a cheap but effective deterrent is to coat the wires with fox or coyote urine. "You can pick up fox urine at any pro hunting shop." (Denver's KCNC-TV)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Read more Stranger Than Fiction at csindy.com.

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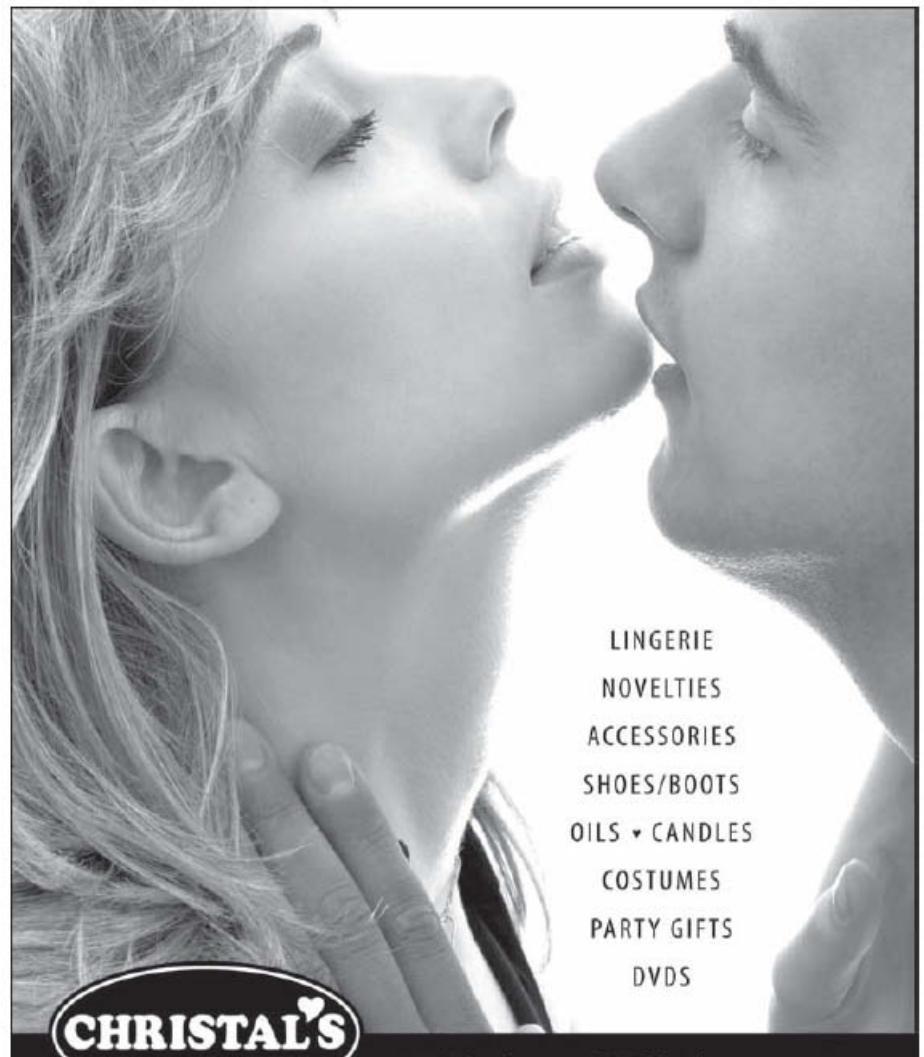

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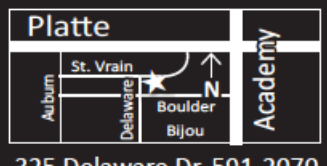

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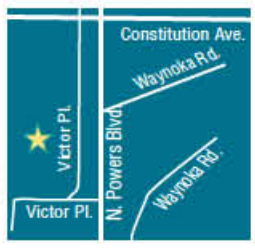

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Medical marijuana news of the week

Officially illegal

As we went to press Tuesday, **Colorado Springs City Council** was scheduled for its first read of several new additions to city code created in response to Amendment 64.

First is a prohibition on consuming or displaying marijuana "in or upon any street, alley, avenue, or park, or upon any public stairway or hall, or in any other public place within the City." The second is the same, but specific to inside a vehicle. Third is rewriting of the ordinance to clarify that possession by anyone under 21, or possession of more than an ounce, is illegal.

Each was already the case because of wording in the amendment, but local police had no specific violations on the books with which to charge lawbreakers. Potential penalties include fines of not more than $500, or 90 days in jail. Council President Scott Hente says he predicts easy passage.

Tell your friends

People could travel to Colorado for pot if recommendations created last week by an **Amendment 64** task force are eventually enacted by the state Legislature. However, they might be limited to purchasing amounts as low as an eighth of an ounce at a time, reported the Associated Press, and could be prohibited from leaving the state with the substance.

As for recreational stores, the *Denver Post* reported the task force recommended potential owners be Colorado residents of at least two years; that stores grow most of what they sell, as medical-marijuana centers do now; and that current MMJ-center owners be the only people eligible to apply for a license the first year.

Assuming a municipality hasn't opted out, recreational outlets are expected near the end of the year.

Keef crumbs

• As of last Saturday, **Crossroads MMC** is no longer, confirms owner Triton Gulczynski. The lease at 176 Talamine Court, #110, could not be renewed due to problems the building's owner had refinancing, and a move was too expensive, he says.

• Reddit.com continues to be a good place for people to express their message, evidenced again as both U.S. Rep. **Jared Polis** and **Mason Tvert**, co-director of the Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, have taken questions regarding cannabis in the last couple weeks.

For example, Polis identified "the law enforcement industrial complex" as the biggest "moneyed interest" blocking marijuana progress; Tvert wrote that he thought change would come as "older, more conservative people [die] and younger, more supportive people" don't.

• A bill in North Carolina legalizing **medical marijuana** generated so much support from voters that lawmakers killed it in committee because they felt "harassed," reported WRAL-TV in Raleigh.

*— **Bryce Crawford***

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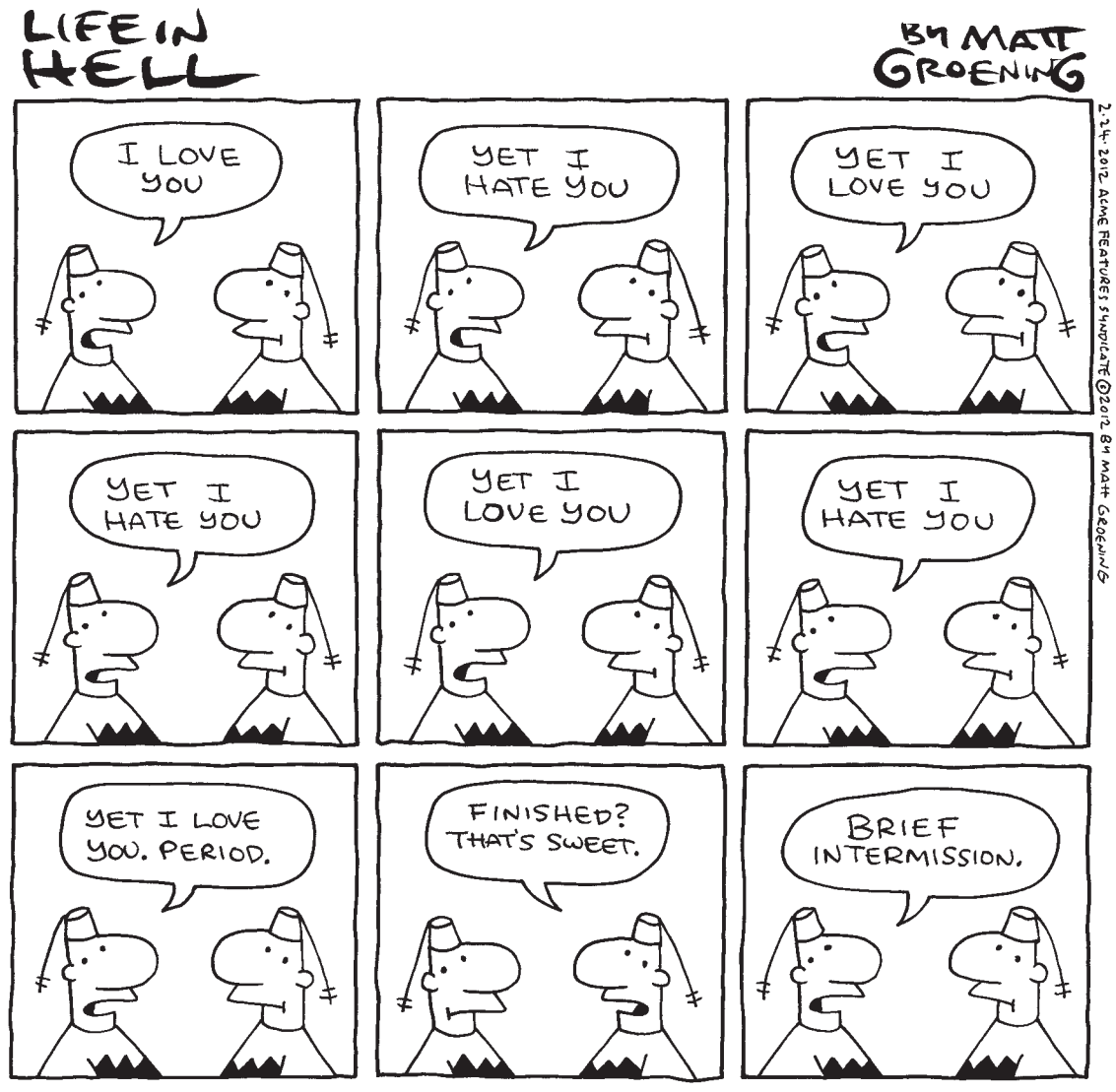

SUDUKO X

					8	9		
7						4		1
	9					3		
			3	7				
	1		8				4	
				9	5			
		8		2			5	
1		2						4
		5	7					

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 54

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

Indignation wants to be free

What are your thoughts on gently dissuading a person from making a total fool of herself on Facebook? A woman I know had her husband leave her for the woman he was cheating on her with. She's been venting about this almost daily on Facebook, in sometimes blistering detail, and I'm truly embarrassed for her. She's looking for a job, and a prospective employer could see these posts (as could potential future boyfriends). Shockingly, not one of her 443 Facebook friends has suggested she put a lid on it. — Concerned Acquaintance

Social networking, at its worst, is like drunk dialing not only your rotten ex but everyone in his zip code. It's easy to forget this when you're home alone in your ratty old robe, typing a message into the Facebook status window. But, the moment you hit "post," it's like you lured 500 people into a room with a clip of a monkey skiing and then got up on an ottoman and yelled out a hate-soaked rant about how your cheating husband should've pledged, "Till skanky piece of trash do us part."

If you saw a blind man about to step off the curb into speeding traffic, you'd probably tap him on the shoulder and say, "You know, that seems like a bad idea." A similar approach seems in order for a friend in a blind rage wandering naked into Internet traffic. With Facebook's confusing and ever-changing privacy settings and every computer user's ability to take screenshots or copy and paste text, it's best to assume that everything you post has the default visibility of "everyone on earth." (Ideally, this is best assumed proactively — before some fisherman in China messages you, "Tell us more! Post pictures!")

People will assume that someone else in the crowd will intervene.

Now, it's possible that others have privately messaged her, noting that staying connected can sometimes be the quickest way to alienate yourself from future boyfriends and employers. It's also possible many are frozen by what social psychologists call "the bystander effect" — how being in a crowd (or even just imagining being in one) seems to lessen the likelihood that people will help a person in need. People will assume that someone else in the crowd will intervene or, if they haven't, that there's good reason they haven't. (Maybe that's what went on here — or maybe all these "friends" are just too entertained by the carnage to ask her to stop.)

Of course, people are also less likely to speak up when it might make somebody angry with them, which, in this case, could lead to their unfriending on Facebook and in reallifebook, too. If you're willing to risk that, message her, sympathize about what she's going through, and gently remind her that even if she isn't vying to be secretary of state, those heading the "confirmation hearings" for her next job are sure to have access to the Internet. This isn't to say employers won't look at people who engage in social media overshare, but it's best that their interest isn't expressed with "Forget her résumé. Check out this YouTube video of her shoveling horse poo on her husband's car and lighting it on fire!"

Unhappy as a clam

I'm a 30-year-old woman who's very uncomfortable in social situations. I feel far too vulnerable, and I get mired in worry. Am I eating funny? Saying something dumb? So I clam up and stand to the side so I won't do or say anything embarrassing. Going to things with my best friend helps. But I want to be able to socialize and meet people, possibly a boyfriend, on my own. Any ideas that don't involve taking some sort of stupid public speaking course? — Ms. Awkward

You're at a party. You reach in your purse for your lipstick, and a tampon flies out and lands in the hummus — upright, like a little plastic-wrapped gladiator spear. You can duck your embarrassment — or you can own it, laughing to those around you, "Oh, you hadn't heard? Tampax just launched a new line of carrots." It might help to keep in mind that people warm to other people, not over how perfect they are but over how human they are, as in, "To err is ..."

In other words, you'll connect better if you stop trying to hide your fallibilities and instead volunteer them. Try something new at the next party: Tell people about three really embarrassing things you've done. When you do, something horrible will probably happen — that is, if you consider it horrible to have people like you for having the guts to be real. In fact, you'll probably inspire them to reveal something, too — and not that while you were in the bathroom, everybody decided to play dodge ball, and nobody wants you on their team.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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8×	6×		3
			2÷
2–	7+		
	4	2÷	

CHALLENGING

10×		3÷		2–	3–
8+		13+	6		
3–			10×		3
2÷	1		12×	2÷	
	5–			5	3–
13+			3+		

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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 54

RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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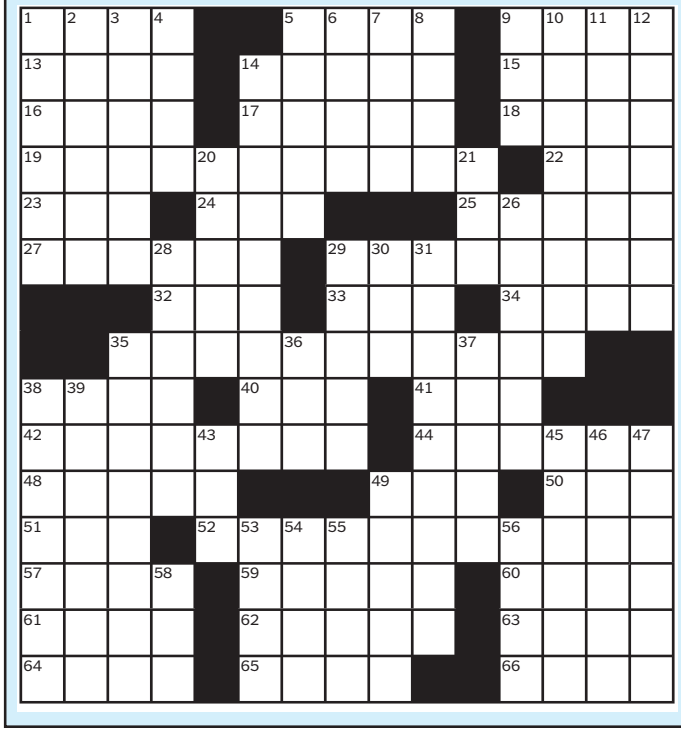

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Deal
5 "Fine ___"
9 "Stop!," at a checkpoint
13 Finito
14 Balkan native
15 Jackie Robinson's alma mater
16 It might start with "Starters"
17 2003 OutKast hit that was #1 for nine weeks
18 Bumpkin
19 Po boy?
22 Female kangaroo
23 & 24 Like Edward Albee's "The Zoo Story"
25 Teen heartthrob Zac
27 To a greater extent
29 L.A. woman?
32 N.L. team with a tomahawk in its logo
33 Notable 2012 Facebook event, for short
34 Artist Rembrandt van ___
35 In person?
38 Obama education secretary Duncan
40 Draw
41 Chow line?
42 P.R. man?
44 Pushover
48 Detergent brand
49 Apt name for a chef?
50 Turn-___
51 Not funny anymore
52 It girl?
57 Natl. Merit Scholarship earner's exam
59 Give or take
60 Antioxidant berry
61 Lucky Charms ingredients
62 Steak cut
63 Scandal suffix
64 Rung
65 Went under
66 Quelques-___ (some: Fr.)

DOWN

1 It might be shaken next to a field
2 Johnson & Johnson skin-care brand
3 Tallest member of a basketball team, often
4 "You make a good point"
5 "Rush Hour" director Ratner
6 It has its ups and downs
7 Tuna salad ingredient
8 List ender
9 "Come again?"
10 Environmental problem addressed in the Clean Air Act
11 Rapper on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
12 Fooled
14 Like many éclairs
20 Guy in dreads, say
21 Pickled delicacy
26 Way in the distance
28 Stands in a studio
29 Fourth-anniversary gift
30 Donkey Kong, e.g.
31 The Cyclones of the Big 12
35 Overwhelm
36 "Homeland" org.
37 Rainbow ___
38 Suitable
39 Harangues
43 Person in un palais
45 Amazon flier
46 Cell body
47 Spots
49 One raising a stink?
53 Tanks
54 "Mamma Mia!" group
55 When shadows are shortest
56 Sauce brand
58 Recipe amt.

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 54

From NYT Syndicate

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "I have decided to rename the constellations that have domineered our skies too long," writes an Internet denizen named Hasheeshee St. Frank. He gives only one example. The Big Dipper, he says, shall forevermore be known as The Star-Spangled Gas Can. I invite you to come up with additional substitutes. It's an excellent time to reshape and redefine the high and mighty things to which you have given away too much power. It's a perfect moment to reconfigure your relationship with impersonal, overarching forces that have wielded a disproportionately large influence over your thoughts and feelings. How about if you call the constellation Orion by the new title of Three-Eyed Orangutan? Or instead of Pegasus, use the name Sexy Dolphin? Other ideas?

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1993, Frenchman Emile Leray was on a solo trip through the Sahara Desert. In the middle of nowhere, his car suffered a major breakdown. It was unfixable. But he didn't panic. Instead, he used a few basic tools he had on hand to dismantle the vehicle and convert its parts into a makeshift motorcycle. He was able to ride it back to civilization. I foresee the possibility of a metaphorically similar development in your future, Aries. You will get the opportunity to be very resourceful as you turn an apparent setback into a successful twist of fate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your power animal is not the soaring eagle or the shrewd wolf or the brave bear. No, Taurus, it's the rubber chicken. I'm serious. With the rubber chicken as your guardian spirit, you might be inspired to commit random acts of goofiness and surrealism. And that would reduce tension in the people around you. It could motivate you to play jokes and pull harmless pranks that influence everyone to take themselves less seriously. Are you willing to risk losing your dignity if it helps make the general mood looser and more generous? Nothing could be better for group solidarity, which is crucial these days. (Thanks, Gina Williams.)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the language of the Huron Indians, "orenda" is a word that refers to the spiritual power that resides in all creatures and things. If you've got enough of it, you may be able to declare at least partial independence from your own past. You can better shape the life you want for yourself rather than being so thoroughly subject to the limitations of your karma and conditioning. I happen to believe that your current supply of orenda is unusually abundant, Gemini. What's the best use you can make of it?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): When I lived in Santa Cruz years ago, some of my published writings were illustrated by a local cartoonist named Karl Vidstrand. His work was funny, outrageous and often offensive in the most entertaining ways. Eventually he wandered away from our colorful, creative community and moved to a small town at the edge of California's Mojave Desert, near where the Space Shuttles landed. He liked living at the fringes of space, he told journalist R. D. Pickle. It gave him the sense of "being out of bounds at all times." I suggest you adopt some of the Vidstrand spirit in the next three weeks, Cancerian. Being on the fringes and out of bounds are exactly where you belong.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The history of your pain is entering a new phase. Gradually, almost imperceptibly at first, an emotional ache that has been sapping your vitality will begin to diminish. You will free yourself of its power to define you. You will learn to live without its oddly seductive glamour. More and more, as the weeks go by, you will find yourself less interested in it, less attracted to the maddening mystery it has foisted on you. No later than mid-April, I'm guessing that you will be ready to conduct a ritual of completion; you'll be able to give it a formal send-off as you squeeze one last lesson out of it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "When looking for a book, you may discover that you were in fact looking for the book next to it." Italian writer Roberto Calasso told that to the *Paris Review*, and now I'm passing it on to you. But I'd like you to expand upon its meaning, and regard it as a metaphor that applies to your whole life right now. Every time you go searching for a specific something — a learning experience, an invigorating pleasure, a helpful influence — consider the possibility that what you really want and need is a different one that's nearby.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): At least once a day, a cell in your body mutates in a way that makes it potentially cancerous. Just as often, your immune system hunts down that dangerous cell and kills it, preserving your health. Do you understand how amazing this is? You have a vigilant protector always on duty, operating below the level of your awareness. What if I told you this physical aspect of you has an equivalent psychic component? What if, in other words, you have within you a higher intelligence whose function it is to steer you away from useless trouble and dumb risks? I say there is such a thing. I say this other protector works best if you maintain a conscious relationship with it, asking it to guide you and instruct you. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to deepen your connection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some rules in the game of life don't apply to you and can therefore be safely ignored. Do you know which ones they are? On the other hand, do you understand which of the rules in the game of life are crucial to observe if you want to translate your fondest dreams into real experiences? To recognize the difference is a high art. I'm thinking that now would be an excellent time to solidify your mastery of this distinction. I suggest that you formally renounce your investment in the irrelevant rules and polish your skills at playing by the applicable rules.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter," wrote the Persian mystic poet Rumi. "It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous." I think you're like that winter garden right now, Sagittarius. Outwardly, there's not much heat and flash. Bright ideas and strong opinions are not pouring out of you at their usual rates. You're not even prone to talking too loud or accidentally knocking things over. This may in fact be as close as you can get to being a wallflower. And yet deep beneath the surface, out of sight from casual observers, you are charging up your psychic battery. The action down there is vibrant and vigorous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "When you come right down to it," says religion writer Rabbi Marc Gellman, "there are only four basic prayers. Gimme! Thanks! Oops! and Wow!" Personally, I would add a fifth type of prayer to Gellman's list: "Do you need any assistance?" The Creator always needs collaborators to help implement the gritty details of the latest divine schemes. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you would be an excellent choice to volunteer for that role right now — especially in tasks that involve blending beautiful fragments, healing sad schisms, furthering peace negotiations, and overcoming seemingly irreconcilable differences.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the movie *Fight Club*, there is an animated scene at the very end that required an inordinate amount of time to produce. Each frame in this scene took the editors eight hours to process. Since there are 24 frames in each second, their work went on for three weeks. That's the kind of attention to detail I recommend you summon as you devote yourself to your labor of love in the coming days, Aquarius. I think you know which specific parts of your creation need such intense focus.

HOMEWORK: What would the people who love you best say is the most important thing for you to learn? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

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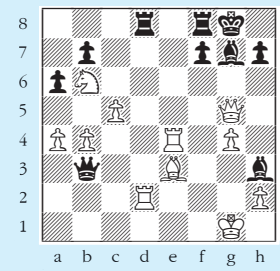

BLACK HAS A CRUSHER
Hint: Key is a triple threat.

For puzzle answers, see page 54

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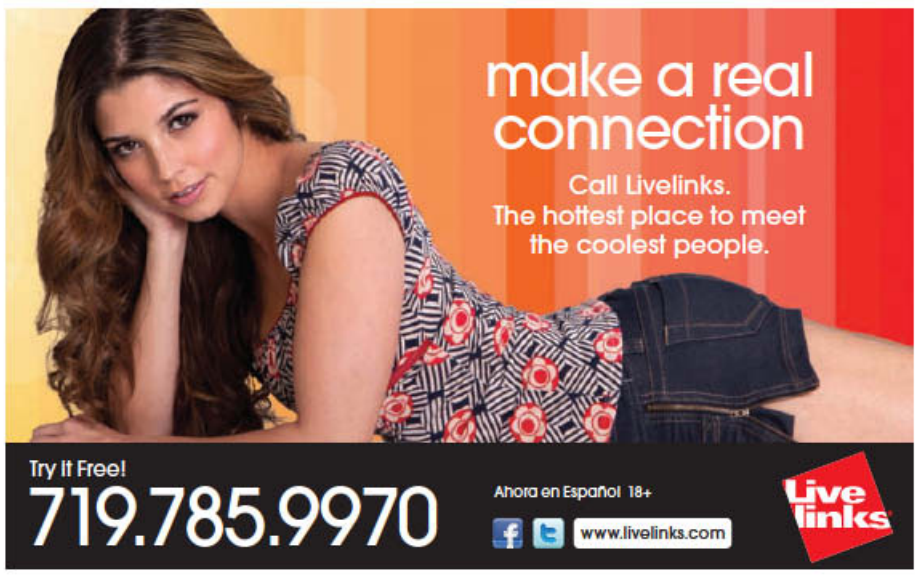

SUDOKU

4	2	3	6	1	8	9	7	5
7	8	6	9	5	3	4	2	1
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2	6	7	4	9	5	1	3	8
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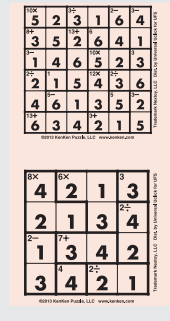

Crossword

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M	E	N	U		H	E	Y	Y	A		H	I	C	K
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		A	T	L		I	P	O		R	I	J	N	
	I	S	A	A	C	N	E	W	T	O	N			
A	R	N	E		T	I	E		A	R	F			
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R	I	N	S	O				S	T	U		O	N	S
O	L	D		I	V	A	N	K	A	T	R	U	M	P
P	S	A	T		A	B	O	U	T		A	C	A	I
O	A	T	S		T	B	O	N	E		G	A	T	E
S	T	E	P		S	A	N	K			U	N	E	S

CHESS QUIZ

From page 53:

1. … Rxd2! If 2. Bxd2, … Qf3! (threatens a rook as well as mate at f1 and g2) [adapted, Zhao-Harika].

EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Celebrity pick for Broncos?

Once or twice a week, without fail, people have been asking me the same question — with almost exactly the same follow-up comment. "So, what did you think about the Super Bowl?" they want to know, which invariably leads into a discussion of how memorable it was, whether the power outage was orchestrated to give San Francisco a better chance for a comeback, that kind of stuff.

Then, invariably, the conversations end, almost verbatim, with a wrapup thought.

"Of course, Denver should have been there. Damn defense."

It's happened just like that more than a dozen times now, often with more expletives about the Broncos' defense giving up so many huge plays to Baltimore in that excruciating playoff loss to the Ravens.

But a new theme is emerging: How should Denver approach the upcoming NFL Draft (April 25-27), with the pre-draft combine reviving interest in the past week?

First, you should know that this draft won't have anywhere close to the star power of recent years'. Just look at a typical mock draft of projected top picks: **Luke Joeckel**, offensive lineman, Texas A&M; **Star Lotulelei**, defensive lineman, Utah; **Dee Milliner**, cornerback, Alabama; **Jarvis Jones** and **Alec Ogletree**, linebackers, Georgia; **Damontre Moore**, defensive lineman, Texas A&M; **Bjoern Werner**, defensive lineman, Florida State; **Jonathan Cooper**, offensive lineman, North Carolina; **Dion Jordan**, outside linebacker, Oregon; and **Barkevious Mingo**, defensive end, LSU.

All of them more might go before the first "skilled" position player (quarterback, runner or receiver) is taken. ESPN draft guru **Mel Kiper** is forecasting only two prospects from those positions in the first 25 picks, and chances are good that you don't know them, either: Tennessee receiver **Cordarrelle Patterson** and Stanford tight end **Zach Ertz**.

This draft is light on marquee players, but deep with standouts who will go in the first three or four rounds. For example, the Broncos need more at running back, with **Willis McGahee** now 31 and uncertain, **Knowshon Moreno** still unproven over the long haul, and **Ronnie Hillman** not having made a real impact as a rookie. But Denver could find another promising runner, and not a no-name. We're talking about the likes of **Montee Ball** of Wisconsin, **Johnathan Franklin** of UCLA, **Knile Davis** of Arkansas, **Le'Veon Bell** of Michigan State or **Rex Burkhead** of Nebraska.

Of course, some would say that if the Broncos could get Alabama runner **Eddie Lacy** with the 27th choice late in the first round, they should jump on him.

My guess is, that won't happen. Damn defense, remember? More likely, Denver will want someone who could help now at inside linebacker, cornerback or safety, such as Mississippi State cornerback **Johnthan Banks**, Florida safety **Matt Elam**, linebacker **Kevin Minter** of LSU or, if he slips, safety **Kenny Vaccaro** of Texas.

Then again, there's another intriguing possibility. What if Denver's turn arrives, and one of the draft's top celebrities is there?

We're talking about Notre Dame linebacker **Manti Te'o**, who had a remarkable season and finished second for the Heisman Trophy. In mid-December, Te'o looked like a certain Top 10 pick. After revelations of him being the victim of that strange relationship hoax, followed by his weak performance against Alabama in the national title game, Te'o's stock has fallen — but nobody knows how much.

It's true that Te'o might have a better shot in Denver, with friendlier fans and a less-searing media glare. The question is, can he mature emotionally and become a great NFL player? Or, more bluntly, would Te'o be worth the gamble?

We won't know that answer for two months. But don't be surprised if it comes down to Denver having that choice.

— routon@csindy.com

SPORTS SHOT

Looking good Colorado State (21-6) and Colorado (18-8) entered this week Nos. 15 and 29 in the national RPI basketball rankings, meaning both have a great shot at the NCAA Tournament. (Air Force is 76th, outside the bubble for now.)

Tougher rule Sounds like college football will do much more in 2013 to stop defenseless players from being hit in the head or neck, with the 15-yard penalty also including automatic ejection. And if the foul happens in the second half, the offending player must sit the first half of his team's next game.

Family affair Parker Frazier, a 24-year-old starting pitcher in the Rockies organization who might make it to Colorado Springs this year, is the son of longtime Rockies TV analyst and ex-major leaguer George Frazier.

Preview Niagara and Air Force clearly are the Atlantic Hockey Association's best NCAA candidates this season, and they'll meet Friday and Saturday nights at Cadet Ice Arena.

RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

Magpul's next move

Today we will dip our toes into the gun discussion. Specifically, the high-capacity ammunition magazines for assault weapons and how such items tend mostly to be the realm of people without much education or any sort of consistent dental care who live in trailers with 30 cats and have an NRA sticker on their $400 car.

Harsh? Perhaps. But if you believe the massacres at Columbine High School and a theater in Aurora and the numbing execution of 20 wide-eyed little school kids in Connecticut — in part because of these high-capacity magazines —- should not have any bearing on your "right" to shoot trees and your "right" to blow up propane tanks in the woods with a withering barrage of bullets as you guzzle beer, well, you're probably accustomed to life being harsh.

As you know, the state's largest manufacturer of high-capacity magazines for AR-15s and other weapons designed to kill people as quickly as possible is threatening to leave Colorado if the mega-magazines — holding more than 15 bullets — are banned in our state. Pending legislation seems to be leaning in that direction, as is the sentiment of the majority of Americans.

Magpul Industries, headquartered in Erie, north of Denver, says that if that bill passes, it will take its 200 jobs and what it says is $85 million per year that it pumps into the state economy and move to another state.

Here now, a bit about Magpul Industries from its own website, under the heading *Unfair Advantage*:

We could always lure the company to El Paso County.

"'If you come expecting a fair fight, you are unprepared.' This common saying among military and law enforcement professionals illustrates the core values and mindset that drive everything we do at Magpul. ... Regardless of the end user or their mission, our goal is to design equipment ... far superior to that of your 'standard issue' gear. In short, we want to give you an unfair advantage."

An example would be **Adam Lanza**, who unleashed an assault gun with a high capacity clip on screaming children huddled inside a first-grade classroom in Newtown, tearing them apart. Thanks to the large magazine, he shot one little boy 11 times.

I guess that's what Magpul meant by an unfair advantage.

"If we're able to stay in Colorado and manufacture a product, but law-abiding citizens of the state were unable to purchase the product, customers around the state and the nation would boycott us for remaining here," Magpul chief operating officer **Doug Smith** said to media. "Staying here would hurt our business."

Maybe Magpul could make up for the lost revenue by manufacturing a device that could hold a bottle of gin on your dashboard for the drive home from work. Or a heavy stick to beat your spouse. Or a plastic water barrel to drown kittens.

Leave, Magpul. Go away. The $85 million you claim to spend in Colorado? We'll get it back 10 times over from companies moving here because of our hint of enlightenment.

Of course, we could always lure Magpul to El Paso County, where the county commissioners' biggest accomplishment of the past few years has been the opening of a gigantic gun range. Commissioners **Sallie Clark**, **Amy Lathen** and **Peggy Littleton**, who posed for photos with big smiles as they aimed handguns at the ground-breaking for the range, could pose with AR-15s and 100-round, child-killing clips.

Frankly, we'd be perfect for Magpul. We're a county of gun nuts and Second Amendment crazies. And Magpul, bless their unfair hearts, could still save face because, more and more, El Paso County is not acting like it's part of Colorado.

(Colorado has voted for **Barack Obama**, twice. El Paso County has voted overwhelmingly for **George H.W. Bush** and **Bob Dole** and **John McCain** and **Mitt Romney**, if I have my list correct of recent Republican losers.)

If the high-capacity magazines are banned in our state, "We will leave," said Magpul's Smith.

Here, another line from Smith and the Magpul website: "Magpul was founded in 1999 with the intent of developing a simple device to aid in the manipulation of rifle magazines while reloading under stress."

An example of that kind of stress would be when Sandy Hook Elementary School principal **Dawn Hochsprung** is screaming and running at you.

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post.**

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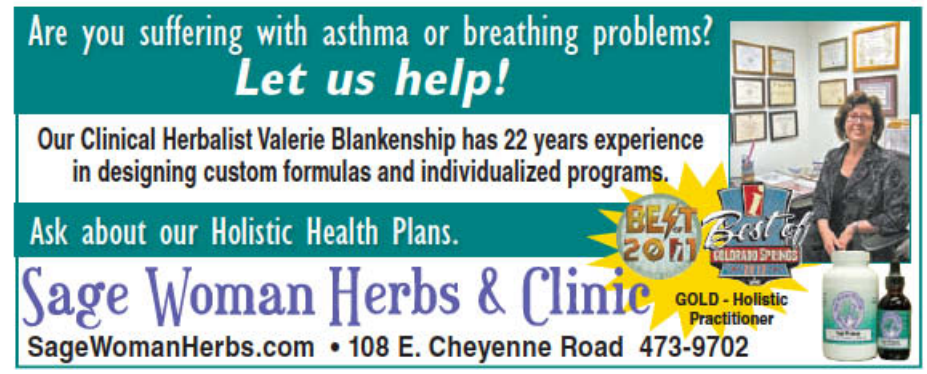
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#1 Largest Subaru Dealer in America!

BASED ON 2012 NATIONAL DEALER RANKING

All New 2013 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5x

$189/MONTH - $1000 DUE

MSRP $22,490
MODEL CODE DFA PACKAGE 21
STOCK #130840

42 month closed end lease , $189/month plus tax.
$1000 due at signing, plus first month's payment and taxes.
10,000 miles per year. WAC. No security deposit required.

COMPETITIVE COMPARISON

FEATURES	2013 Subaru Forester 2.5X Premium	2013 Honda CR-V EX	2013 FORD Escape SEL	2013 Nissan Rogue SV
All-Wheel Drive	**YES**	YES (opt.)	YES (opt.)	YES (opt.)
The Most Award-Winning Small SUV	**YES**	NO	NO	NO
2012 IIHS Top Safety Pick	**YES**	YES	YES	NO
City/Highway Miles Per Gallon	**21city / 27hwy**	22city / 30hwy	23city / 33hwy	22city / 26hwy
MSRP**	**$24,295**	$25,845	$28,170	$25,050

MSRP $21,065
MODEL CODE DAA PACKAGE 01
STOCK #130741

All New 2013 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i

$159/MONTH $1000 DUE

42 month closed end lease , $159/month plus tax. $1000 due at signing, plus first month's payment and taxes. 10,000 miles per year. WAC. No security deposit required.

All New 2013 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0i

$159/MONTH $1000 DUE

42 month closed end lease , $159/month plus tax. $1000 due at signing, plus first month's payment and taxes. 10,000 miles per year. WAC. No security deposit required.

MSRP $18,665
MODEL CODE DJA PACKAGE 01
STOCK #132020

All New 2013 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5i

$229/MONTH $1000 DUE

MSRP $24,290
MODEL CODE DDA PACKAGE 01
STOCK #130132

42 month closed end lease , $229/month plus tax. $1000 due at signing, plus first month's payment and taxes. 10,000 miles per year. WAC. No security deposit required.

*Based on Polk registration data in the U.S. 2002-2012. – Based on manufactures' website data as of January 2013 for the 2013 Subaru Forester 2.5X Premium , 2013 Honda CR-V EX 4WD, 2013 Ford Escape XLS 4WD, 2013 Nissan Rogue SV. **MSRP excludes destination and delivery charges, tax title and registration fees. Dealer sets actual price. ***EPA-estimated fuel economy for Forester 2.5X models. Actual mileage may vary.

THE ROAD TO Heuberger MOTORS QUALITY & ECONOMY

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Family Owned and Operated for Over 43 years. Committed to the Community we serve.

SUBARU
Confidence in Motion

EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 28, 2013